Rev. N. Shaw

to

Mrs. Washington

Long Meadow

Nov. 1881

THE WEIRD SISTERS.


BRITISH MUSEUM
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SEP

Philadelphia Stuart

THE WEIRD SISTERS:

A NOVEL,

IN THREE VOLUMES.

When ſhall we three meet again,
In Thunder, Lightning, or in Rain?
When the Hurly-Burly's done.

SHAKESPEARE.

VOL. II.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
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THE WEIRD SISTERS.

CHAP. XXVIII.

THIS letter filled Mrs. Allen's mind with ſo much tranquillity and ſatisfaction, that (notwithſtanding every incident relative to the young Ladies was at this moment replete with doubt, which amounted almoſt to a certainty that they ſhould meet with little to give them a recompenſe) ſhe ſaid ſhe now did believe (as Mr. Allen always told her) that "every thing was for the

beſt," and if ſhe waited patiently till Chriſtmas, ſhe ſhould ſee her dear boy Charles, and then, Miſs Capel, how happy we all ſhall be! He will come to the cottage, and you will come to the parſonage." So true is the obſervation, that we loſe ſight of the troubles of others, in contemplation of our own happineſs and comfort. The frequent viſits of Mr. Charles Allen (as promiſed by his anticipating mother) was another very powerful inroad on the privacy; but that privacy had already been ſo far invaded, as never to ſuffer it again to enjoy its priſtine ſtate of peace and contemplation.

At length the morning dawn'd, fair and ſerene, which was to take the unwilling daughter of the Earl of Marr from that ſeclusion he had matured her from her infancy to love, and which he had in his laſt moments enjoined her ſtill to continue to prefer to popularity, fame, or ſociety, all which he knew to be futile poſſeſſions. After he was gone, his youngeſt offſpring were ſoon

taught a leſſon they wiſhed to experience the truth of, without attending to the admonative fallacy he had impreſſed. The eldeſt, an involuntary adventurer, was forced to quit both the injunction and the place, while Mr. Allen, learned in the world, from contemplation and true philoſophy, condemned the haſty retreat of the one, while he as equally cenſured the reluctance of Miſs Capel to ſociety, from motives, of which ſhe only knew the theory, for he argued, that in ſhunning the world we do not always eſcape misfortune, and the cottage is as expoſed to calamity as the palace, though of different degrees; but the human mind feels the ſame reflection and ſeeming ſupport, when under trouble, while nature, ever at hand to aſſiſt us, ſuſtains her offspring upon all occaſions; but no more arguments on either ſide; there are advocates and opponents for both. The morning, as obſerved, was fair and ſerene; the poſt-chaiſe, punctual to the appointed hour, was at the door of the cottage exactly at five o'clock in the morning.

When the Rector and his wife, with his amiable ward, left the happy retirement to launch into a world totally unknown to the one, and had in a manner been relinquished by the other, but not as Mr. Capel, from choice, but neceſſity, penury had with them left no alternative, while grandeur and affluence were the bane to the peace of the other, and he ſought for happineſs only in this ſecluſion.

The ſervants, whoſe affection to their late maſter extended to his children, were collected at a reſpectful diſtance to ſee their young Lady ſet off, while old Giles, with tears and benedictions, prayed for her ſafety, and her return with his other two young Miſſes. Mr. Capel, on his death-bed, had recommended the old man to the protection of his daughter, begging her to ſee that he never wanted any neceſſary in life; and the daughter, to fulfil the requeſt, had hired another gardener to do the laborious work, while the old man only ſuperintended the buſineſs, and lived both comfortably and eaſily; the maids too were

were expreſſing their hopes and fears, while the tears ſtood gliſtening and ready to force a paſſage, ſo that when Miſs Capel, as ſhe was juſt ſtepping into the chaiſe, turned about, as well to take the laſt farewell of the cottage as of them, and ſeeing thoſe tears ready to ſtart, which had been reſtrained from reſpect, could only ſhake her hand to them, as an acknowledged notice, which they receiving as a kindneſs, the tears would no longer be with-held, and they with ſobs vociferated their good wiſhes, while Mr. Allen, obſerving their gratitude, and ſeeing how much Miſs Capel was affected by their attention and duty, haſtened their departure by helping her into the carriage (Mrs. Allen being already ſeated) and ſtepping in after her, ordered the driver to proceed, which, with a ſmack of the whip, he obeyed, and drove the laſt of thoſe children from that happy aſylum into a world of trials and difficulties; while, as they paſſed the parſonage, where the two ſervants of the Rector (Joe and Dolly) where ſtanding to fulfil their duty and wiſhes in ſeeing their

maſter and miſtreſs paſs. Miſs Capel, with tears flowing in abundance, was anticipating the hour when ſhe ſhould be drove up to that door again, declaring her belief that ſhe could never know happineſs till then.

Mr. Allen told her, "ſhe was now going to put it to the proof, and he hoped to hear her acknowledge herſelf miſtaken."

After leaving the parſonage, Miſs Capel was out of the vortex of her knowledge, and in a latitude ſhe was totally unacquainted with, to divert her mind, Mr. Allen tried to draw her attention, by obſervation of things in themſelves indifferent as they paſſed; and when they had gone ten miles, the ſcene began to wear the face of popularity, and a ſtir of buſineſs had excluded uneaſineſs.—At Brittleſworth, where they changed their carriage and horſes, Mr. Allen obſerved, that the market-houſe was reckoned a fine piece of gothic architecture, and that the town was famous for the manufactory of ſhirt buttons; but

but it was with the utmoſt reluctance he could prevail on her to take a view of either, and ſhe did it more out of reſpect, and in obedience to his requeſt, rather than any curioſity ſhe had herſelf to notice them, though objects of which ſhe had never yet been made acquainted with. In walking through the town, he drew her attention to the dial of the church clock, whoſe figures were in hieroglyphics, that a caſual obſerver with difficulty underſtood the meaning. It was likewiſe a curious piece of mechaniſm, as it told not only the diurnal movement of the ſun, but the ſtars, and the flux and reflux of the tide, with every different revolution of the moon. All theſe ſeveral movements Mr. Allen explained, as well as the cauſe and uſe of them; and though from reſpect, Miſs Capel could not do otherwiſe than attend, yet ſhe always cloſed the account with, "Mrs. Allen, do you obſerve what Mr. Allen is telling us?"

In their journey to Liverpool they paſſed many curious manufactories, ſuch as cotton mills, ſpinning of yarn, making of broad-cloth, in which ſeveral branches, not only men and women, but even children at a very early age, were taught induſtry, and to earn their bread. Mr. Allen would then point out the houſe of ſome Nobleman, a Duke, or an Earl, whoſe fortune and liberal mind had founded thoſe ſeminaries of induſtry. He would then enlarge on the power of riches, were the heart led to do good, and what a bleſſing to the country around, that the idle were employed, and kept from doing harm, by being compelled to do good, in eſtabliſhing the means, and, by ſo doing, employ many poor, and maintain indigent families, who might otherwiſe have ſuffered all the miſeries of cold, hunger, and wretchedneſs!

Miſs Capel expatiated on the beneficence of the founder, and ſaid, "that in her heart ſhe

ſhe could not but love him for his charity and hoſpitality."

But Mr. Allen could not bring her mind to enter ſo fully as he wiſhed into the merits of the works his bounty had occaſioned, and which were of ſuch univerſal benefit to mankind. She rejoiced at the accumulated good, but her mind could not yield to any pleaſure, though of ſuch a ſuperior kind.

CHAP. XXIX.

AS the ſummer was in its fineſt ſeaſon, they travelled till late in the evening; but was, nevertheleſs, obliged to reſt one night on the road, which being a town of great note, there was much to be ſeen, and Mr. Allen would fain have prevailed on her, as the moon was over the full, to have taken a ſurvey of it by her mild rays; but ſhe begged to be excuſed, at the ſame time deſired him and Mrs. Allen to amuſe themſelves with a walk. This they however declined, and as they roſe early in the morning, the only

only view they had was in paſſing through in the carriage.

On the evening of the ſecond day they reached Liverpool, and as a journey of two days muſt appear very long to a perſon who had never been a tour of any kind before for two hours, her impatience to find the ſituation of thoſe they were in purſuit of; that, and the long journey being at an end, ſhe began to expreſs hopes of ſoon ſeeing them, till Mr. Allen obſerved they had a much longer voyage to take before that period arrived, and he would go to the Quay and inquire if any veſſel for Spain was in the harbour.

On mentioning his going himſelf, Mrs. Allen firſt, and Miſs Capel ſeconded the requeſt, that he would not leave them alone, he therefore deſired the landlord of the inn, at whoſe houſe they had alighted, might be called, and he inquired of him, if he

knew if there were any ſhip ready to ſail, bound for Spain ?

Mr. Jorden, the maſter of the houſe, who truly knew the benefit ariſing from civility to his cuſtomers, and was no ways above the buſineſs he followed, but on all occaſions ready to aſſiſt the needy, replied, " that he could not, on his word, ſay that there was ; but it was ſeldom, in time of peace, but an opportunity offered for a paſſage to ſome port in Spain, and that he would ſend ſomebody to inquire."

On Mr. Allen's thanking him for his civility, and adding, " that he wiſhed diſpatch, as their caſe required particular haſte," Mr. Jorden ſaid " he would go himſelf, for (ſaid he) there is no truſting any one, if we do not ſee into matters ourſelves," and ſaying " he would return in five minutes," left the room.

" What

"What a good ſort of a man Mr. Jorden is!" ſaid Miſs Capel, after he had left them.

"Yes," returned Mr. Allen. "The cottage would not have afforded you an opportunity to have acknowledged the goodneſs of ſuch a man as Mr. Jorden, in the firſt inſtance, where we wanted aſſiſtance! We muſt, my dear (added he) confer and receive benefits to make life enjoyment."

"I firſt knew you and Mrs. Allen, Sir, (ſaid Miſs Capel) in the vicinity of that happy aſylum, and what needed I more?"

Mr. Allen bowed for the compliment, and added, by applauding the conduct of Mr. Jorden, "You have increaſed the number of your friends, and enlarged the beneficence of your own ideas by the expanſion."

This ſhort dialogue, in which it is natural to ſuppoſe, conſidering the unfortunate criſis that had brought them from thence, that Miſs

Miſs Capel would have diſpenſed with Mr. Jorden's friendſhip, to have continued in her ſecluſion; but that good ſort of a man now returning, and ſaying that there were three ſhips bound for Spain, but two of them would not have their laden in under a fortnight; the other was only waiting for a fair wind. He had ſpoken to the Captain, who ſaid "he was fearful that the accommodations would not ſuit ſuch gentlefolks (Mr. Jorden bowing, intimating by it, that he had informed him of the reſpectable appearance of his paſſengers) as his great cabin was already beſpoke, but that they were very clean and wholeſome, though they were ſmall," and, added Mr. Jorden, "the Captain would come with me, and he is now in the houſe, if your honor chuſes to ſpeak to him yourſelf."

Miſs Capel hearing that an opportunity offered for them immediately to embark, imputed it all to the friendly attention and diligence of Mr. Jorden, and as ſhe could make him

him no other return than acknowledgment, ſhe heaped upon him a thouſand thanks, with as many courteſies, while her beauty, with the dignified and graceful utterance and manner, made Mr. Jorden unable to ſay any thing in return, but, "Indeed, young Lady, no obligation at all; you are very welcome to my poor ſervices; any body would do as much for ſuch a ſweet young Lady as you: But, Miſs, ſhall the Captain come in?"

To this queſtion Miſs Capel looked to Mr. Allen for a reply, and he deſired the landlord to fetch him, who went out, and almoſt immediately returned with Don Alvaro Donoro, Captain of the Illſparinzo, a trading veſſel to the port of Valencia, to which he was bound; and as Mr. Allen ſaid they wanted to land at the port which would bring them neareſt to Madrid, without being too long on the ſea, Captain Alvaro ſaid, "they could not be better provided in theſe reſpects, if his accommodations would be ſuitable, and lamented that they had not come

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the day before, as then they might have had the large cabin, for the Gentleman who had got it only came the laſt evening, and had been on board ever ſince, with his ſervant. I don't know what to make of him (added the Captain) for he is a very young man, and yet when I am on board he will never let me be from him, if he can help it, for he ſays he cannot live without ſociety."

"He is right (ſaid Mr. Allen) when it can be obtained; for man is born a ſociable creature; he never flies to dens and caverns to hide himſelf, but from neceſſity or choice, either of which proceed from latent diſappointments or diſtreſs. We ſhun the trader who has embezzled us, the falſe friend who has betrayed us, the lover who has deceived us, or the vanities of the world which may have beguiled us; each of theſe felt, wean us, and all combined, drive us to avoid in ſolitude, what we are ſure we cannot meet."

Don

Don Alvaro Donoro, who, from conſtant traffic, was as perfect in the Engliſh language as his own native tongue, ſhook his head very ſignificantly upon theſe remarks of Mr. Allen's; but time being with him a precious commodity, he ſtopped the farther purſuits of the paſtor, by ſaying "he wiſhed he could have the honour of their company to Valencia; and if you, Sir (to Mr. Allen) would be ſo kind as to take the trouble to go on board, and ſee the accommodations."

This was objected to on the part of the Ladies, as before, by the wiſh that he would not leave them alone; and Miſs Capel expreſſing her impatience, by ſaying, "ſhe could ſubmit to any inconvenience," Mr. Allen took the hint, and telling the Captain "they would take them at any rate, he ſettled with him what he was to have for the paſſage of each, and to provide every neceſſary on the voyage;" but as the wind was directly contrary, or, as the Captain phraſed it, full in their teeth, he left them to have a night's

night's reſt, with aſſurance that they would be at Liverpool in the morning, for the ſky portended no change.

The Captain having left them, Miſs Capel obſerved to Mr. Allen, "that ſhe thought the ſtile of Don, as the Captain had been introduced to them by, was appropriated to a certain rank in the higher order, and not in a mercantile line; at leaſt ſhe had read ſo."

Mr. Allen agreed in the obſervation, but ſaid, "that it was very probable misfortunes in life might have deprived him of his inheritance, when it could not of his honor, and the Spaniards being by nature very proud and tenacious, he, as prompted by inclination, in parting from what he could not retain, would not relinquiſh that, which none would wiſh to take from him, his nobility, but Miſs Capel, however ſtrange it is, pride is the laſt paſſion which quits us, and on reflection I don't know but it is right, for were we

we not to retain a little ſelf-ſufficiency, if I may call it ſuch, the power of riches is ſo apt to create arrogance in the illiberal, impatience and dominion in the great, that the midling, or the common race of men, would be cruſhed to total inſignificance, without that ſtimulative to ſet a value on himſelf, which neither of theſe will allow him."

Miſs Capel, before they quitted the cottage, had given the charge of the twenty thouſand pounds to Mr. Allen, which had been carefully ſewed in the lining of his waiſtcoat by his wife, and having now ſettled the moſt important buſineſs, their paſſage, and having refreſhed themſelves with a diſh of tea, it being only nine o'clock, Miſs Capel, to the aſtoniſhment of Mr. Allen, made an overture to walk and ſee the town.

To this he readily agreed, and at the ſame time ſaid they would eaſe him of the burden on his back, by placing it in a banker's hands, as during this journey Mr. Allen, in his

his whole life, had never before entertained, or had cauſe to expreſs, any fear of highway-men, or free-booters.

A banker, in ſuch a commercial town as Liverpool, was ſoon found, where the money was placed, excepting four hundred pounds, which Miſs Capel deſired might be detained for their future ſupplies, though Mr. Allen thought it too much by half, till ſhe told him "he did not conſider that Mrs. Allen and herſelf wanted a ſupply of cloaths before they embarked for the Continent." This being a point he did not dare to diſpute with his ward, he made the neceſſary inquiries for a ſale ſhop, as they could not wait the making, and being directed to a very good one, Miſs Capel made purchaſe of a black ſilk, and Mrs. Allen chuſing the ſame colour, ſhe had one too, and that Mrs. Allen ſhould not feel an obligation, Miſs Capel threw aſide her cloak and bonnet (the materials of which had been purchaſed the fatal day Madame took her ſiſters to Brittleſworth in the green cart)

cart) though ſtill very good, and had a new one of each, as well as Mrs. Allen; but as Miſs Capel could not, by any ſubterfuge, impoſe on the feelings of Mr. Allen, ſhe made a great many apologies for her preſumption, and ſaid, "as the expences of the travelling muſt of courſe fall on her, who had ſolicited them for their company, he could not have provided himſelf for the occaſion, and therefore begged him to make uſe of her money till their return;" in conſequence Mr. Allen bought a new ſuit of cloaths, with hat, wig, &c. the fineſt he had had for ſeven years, and thoſe, at that period, were the only ſuit the parſonage had produced him ſince he had enjoyed the living. Thus equipped, the nominal guardian and his Lady made a very reſpectable appearance, and returning to the inn, where they had ordered ſupper at ten o'clock, after partaking of that regale, they retired ſeverally to their chambers.

The next morning ſhewed the wind ſtill in the ſame quarter; but the Captain calling about

about noon, told them to hold themſelves in readineſs, as ſhe ſeemed to waver. This intimation kept them at home, though all buſineſs being done, Miſs Capel had no curioſity to collect further information than to walk in the garden of the houſe, and amuſe the time with obſervation on the flowers and vegetables. Here ſhe, for the firſt time in her life, ſaw a news-paper (though her ſiſter had read many) for Mr. Jorden finding them unemployed, he brought in ſeveral, where ſhe read of perſons and things; obſervations on the dying and the dead; the fall of power, and the riſe of greatneſs; the buſy running into danger, and the cautious running from it, the empty preying on the property of the unſuſpicious, while the plauſible villain, under the maſk of piety and honeſty, draws in the unwary, and lives in riot and debauchery on the property of others; and though in her father's library ſhe had read, that ſuch things had been, ſhe now only knew that they ſtill exiſted, and that mankind were the ſame, and for ever will be; there will always be

the

the careleſs for the crafty; the innocent for the ſeducer; candor for the hypocrite, and the avowed rogue, to temporize againſt the honeſt man.

The tedious day had now brought on the evening, when Mr. Jorden telling Mr. Allen "that he believed the wind was coming fair for them to ſail, though they were things he did not trouble his head much about (he ſaid;) but ſeeing Miſs, your daughter, Sir, ſo very uneaſy, he thought he would tell us."

Miſs Capel ſmiled on his ſuppoſition, "that ſhe was the daughter of Mr. Allen, and when he left the room a thought ſtruck her, that from incaution, on a future ſurmiſe of that kind, Mr. Allen might be led from opportunity to ſay who ſhe was (though *that*, he as well as herſelf were unacquainted with) ſhe therefore begged him never to give any ſatisfaction on the ſubject, ſhould he be queſtioned; for if that ſhould happen (ſaid

Miſs

Miſs Capel) on my return I can never make the cottage ſo happy as it has been."

"Do you ever expect to do ſo?" ſaid Mrs. Allen.

"Perhaps much happier," returned the guardian.

At length the happy tidings came, that the ſhip was going to be under-way, and they muſt repair on board; but the meſſenger not being the Captain, Mrs. Allen looked with doubt, till ſhe was informed that it was the mate, while the Captain ſtaid on board to receive them. Theſe promiſes being ſatisfactory, they took leave of Mr. Jorden, who told Miſs Capel, "that he hoped ſhe would return, and not chuſe a jealous Spaniard for a huſband."

Mr. Allen looked (for once) diſpleaſed at the freedom, while his ward, took the wiſh in part of the goodneſs of his heart, and they all

all bade him a friendly farewell; when walking to the Quay they were by the maſter handed into a boat. Miſs Capel not expreſſing the leaſt fear, and coming along ſide of the ſhip, were, with the accommodations Don Alvaro had procured, ſafely brought on deck, and then into the little cabin, which contained three ſmall cots to ſleep in, which encloſed the room, and was otherwiſe furniſhed with a table and one chair, a locker being the appropriated ſeat for two, occaſionally three more.

This was the accommodation for the eldeſt daughter of the Earl of Marr, who looking round her with great ſatisfaction, Mr. Allen aſked her, "If ſhe liked what was provided?"

"O perfectly," ſhe replied, with a ſmile, "and if you and Mrs. Allen can make yourſelves comfortable, I had rather have this place than a better:" But had ſhe known her high birth, and future expectation, would ſhe

have ſat down ſo contented, and accepted the ſecond cabin in a trading veſſel? Or, why ſhould we judge otherwiſe in the ſuppoſition, for the careful father had exploded all pride from their minds, both by precept, and more ſo by example (had they been acquainted with their origin;) and what they inherited, from their birth, and from nature, he could not eradicate.

When they had taken their ſeveral ſtations, which was to continue during the voyage, Mr. Allen being placed in the chair, the Captain paid them a complimentary viſit, apologizing for, at the time he was hoping they liked, their accommodations, and was followed by the ſhip boy with coffee and biſcuits, a very ſalutary, as well as welcome, beverage, and then aſked what they would chuſe to have for ſupper? enumerating various articles, which he ſaid were the beſt in their kind, ham, fowls, pigeon-pie, tarts, hung beef, lobſters, prawns, cheeſe, butter, and for drink, Hock, Port, Sherry, Made-

ira,

ira, Cyder, Beer, Capaliere, with others; but it is to be obſerved, the Captain had not failed in his exactions for their paſſage, and in their appearance, ſuppoſing them capable of ſtanding a charge, had levied it accordingly, truſting to their apparent ignorance that he ſhould not be detected.

Miſs Capel, however, when he was gone, for this kind attention, placed him in her eſtimation, in the ſame degree of favor as Mr. Jorden, and ſaid, he too was a very good ſort of a man.

Mr. Allen ſmiled at this ſecond favorite, telling her, "that he hoped ſhe would continue to increaſe her friends, as well as to perſevere in her opinion, in reſpect to her philanthropy," and enlarging on the ſubject, reverted back to places they had paſſed, where he had pointed out the manſion-houſe of a Nobleman, a Baronet, or an Eſquire, remarkable for their virtue, the extent of their eſtates, or the grandeur of their houſes: —

But in theſe Mr. Allen was compelled again to draw her ideas to the ſpot they were bid to review; they had left her memory from the time they fled from them; nor had the world yet gained ſuch acceſs into her thoughts, as to imprint any object there, which was not directed, or guided, by favors received. Thus, in Mr. and Mrs. Allen, ſhe thought it impoſſible to recompenſe them for their kindneſs to her, and indeed the obligation was great, ſo in theſe trifling attentions of Mr. Jorden, and Don Alvaro, the Captain, who were both guided by intereſt, though we will permit an inclination to have ſome claim on their ſenſibility, in accommodating a beautiful, as well as amiable, young Lady, whoſe affable manners, and attractive perſon, engaged the admiration of all beholders, and intereſted the feelings of every one in her favor.

As they had all unanimouſly declined eating any ſupper, except biſcuit and a glaſs of wine, the ſhip beginning to move with a

ſwim,

ſwim, that cauſes at firſt rather an unpleaſant ſenſation, Mrs. Allen alarmed, caught hold of Miſs Capel's arm, at the ſame time ſaying, "What is the matter?"

"Nothing, my dear, is the matter, Mr. Allen ſaid; we are, I ſuppoſe, on the point of ſailing: Don't you, by an ill-timed apprehenſion, alarm Miſs Capel; but a declaration coming from her, that ſhe had no fear on her own account, their ears at the moment were aſſailed with the ſound of a hautboy.

Mrs. Allen ſaid "Huſh!" when a little attention made Miſs Capel (who was a perfect miſtreſs in muſic) ſay, "Whoever is blowing that inſtrument has great ſkill."

"I dare ſay then (ſaid the Paſtor) it is the young Gentleman who has the beſt cabin. He cannot have choſen a better ſubſtitute for ſociety than muſic. Harmony was allowed by the ancients to be food for the

ſoul; it tranquillizes the mind, ſoftens the turbulency of unruly paſſions, ſubdues reſentment, anger, envy, revenge; enkindles the warm emanations of heroic principles, and leads to action the dormant virtues."

"I think, Sir (ſaid Miſs Capel) in your deſcription of muſic, it ſhould rather precede, than be a ſubſtitute for ſociety."

"No, (ſaid Mr. Allen) this Gentleman would not value himſelf on an excellency in attainment, if he was deprived of the admiration of the *amatuers*, and there is an inſtance in proof, did he know of Miſs Capel's acknowledged praiſe, and the judgment which enhances it. But ſuppoſe (added he) as the moon is very bright, and it is not yet ten o'clock (too ſoon for mariners, ſuch as us, who are now for the firſt time truſting ourſelves to a turbulent ſea) to retire to reſt, that we go on the deck, and watch the gliding waves; or we may poſſibly hear the hautboy

to

to more advantage from the echo of the waters."

Miſs Capel would have objected, but was over-ruled by the force of her guardian (tho' not in argument) who taking both her hands in his, drew her to the door, which opening into a ſmall antichamber, they were ſoon on the quarter-deck.

At firſt a diſappointment ſucceeded, as the hautboy was huſh'd; but having taken a turn or two backwards and forwards, admiring the glittering moon playing on the ebbing waves, at which Miſs Capel, for the firſt time, expreſſed a delight amounting to ſatisfaction, in the miraculous order of the univerſe, no where ſo conſpicuous as in that wonderful expanſe of waters, they again were arouſed by the vibrating ſound! As they advanced the attraction increaſed, and on a nearer approach towards the door, Mr. Allen obſerved, by a light which ſtood within, a young Gentleman, dreſſed in a looſe morn-

ing gown, ſtanding without the door, and ſerenading them in the manner deſcribed, Miſs Capel, on ſeeing him, haſtily turned about with Mrs. Allen, which obliged Mr. Allen to join them, and they again traverſed the deck, which giving the Gentleman an opportunity to ſee them in return on their again advancing, and Mr. Allen ſtopping for the benefit of hearing more diſtinctly the notes, and the Ladies purſuing their walk in another return, the Gentleman took his inſtrument from his lips, and accoſted the Rector in a genteel ſalutation, and adding, "that as he ſuppoſed they were equally bent on one purſuit, a voyage to Spain, begged that, during the paſſage, they might be as friends, whatever deſtiny might ſeparate them in future."

To a wiſh delivered with ſuch apparent ſincerity, Mr. Allen could make no other reply, than an acknowledgment of mutual affiance; but Miſs Capel ſeeing them in converſation, entreated Mrs. Allen to return with her

her into the cabin, which, on advancing to the door, they did; but as they were neceſſarily obliged to paſs near the Gentleman in their way, good manners compelled them to bend in an obeiſance, which politeneſs was returned by a very graceful bow, and they again took their ſeats on the locker, the chair being left for the firſt proprietor, who obſerving they had retired, begged of this friend pardon for the abrupt manner in which he was obliged to leave him after ſo ſhort an interview, in which much had been promiſed on both ſides, and then joined the Ladies, and took his ſeat accordingly.

Miſs Capel, however, on this accidental interview between the two Gentlemen, began to ſuſpect, from their ſituation, that an intimacy might enſue, on Mr. Allen's return, craved he would never, by any diſtant intimation, let any body into the cauſe of their tour, nor who ſhe was, or whence ſhe came; for (continued ſhe) it can be of no conſe-

quence to any one who I am, and I had rather remain unknown.

Mr. Allen, ſmiling, returned, "Will you, then, accept the adoption of Mr. Jorden, and let me call you my daughter?"

After ſome heſitation, ſhe ſaid, "No; I don't regard my name being known, but every other circumſtance I could wiſh to be ſuppreſſed; cruel neceſſity has compelled me to infringe on the prohibitions of my father, already too much. You are not to take any blame to yourſelf, Miſs Capel, or cloud your mind with a breach of duty, which that neceſſity has made incumbent," ſaid Mr. Allen.

Mrs. Allen was going to reply, or rather to aſk a queſtion, when the Captain tap'd at the door, and on being admitted, ſaid, "He was come with a complimentary meſſage from the Gentleman in the great cabin, whoſe name was Hamilton, to Mr. Allen and the Ladies, and would eſteem it an obliging favor if they would give

him their company to a cold collation, as he was entirely alone;" and added, "that as they were likely to be ſuch near neighbours for a ſhort time, hoped they ſhould be good friends."

To this civil requeſt Miſs Capel was going to put a poſitive negative, being ſo directly adverſe to the laſt wiſh ſhe had enjoined; but Mrs. Allen haſtily ſaying, "Why, my dear, I was juſt going to aſk you how you liked your new acquaintance," when the Captain came in, ſhe could not in politeneſs, however, ſtop Mr. Allen from replying to the queſtion, who ſaid, "that he thought him a Gentleman in every acceptation of the word," and looking at Miſs Capel for an anſwer to the Captain's invitation, and ſeeing in her eyes (which ever expreſſed the ſentiments of her heart) that ſhe was averſe; he looked at her in return, as vexed at her perſevering reluctance to ſociety, which ſhe fully comprehending, and unwilling to appear always to oppoſe, yet wiſhing not to acquieſce, ſaid, in

reply to his looks (for no requeſt had been made) heſitatingly, "Well, Sir, as you think proper."

"Is it as I think proper?" ſaid Mr. Allen, pleaſed at her eaſy compliance: "Then, Captain, give my compliments in return to Mr. Hamilton, and ſay we will wait on him."

Don Alvaro returned with his meſſage, and Mr. Allen ſtood rubbing his hands, which was cuſtomary with him when he had any thing ſucceeded to his wiſh."

"You ſeem very much pleaſed," ſaid Mrs. Allen, "at this viſit."

"Or," ſaid Miſs Capel, "perhaps my guardian is rejoiced that he has, apparently, overcome my reluctance to ſociety, by my complying; but it is not ſo: I ſtill ſigh for the lone habitation at the bottom of the hill."

"We

"We will return to it," ſaid the Rector, ſtill rubbing his hands as before, "when we can make it more ſociable."

He now hurried the Ladies in preparing for the viſit to the great cabin, and as they had little to adjuſt, he leading the way, a minute brought them to the apartment of Mr. Hamilton, the Captain ſtanding at the door as nominal Gentleman uſher, who firſt introduced Mr. Allen and his Lady, and then the daughter of the Earl of Marr, as the offspring of a country Rector, for he had no idea but ſhe was their daughter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

MR. Hamilton received them politely and graciouſly, acknowledging his obligation in their ready compliance with his requeſt, which made him extremely happy; but having only ſeen Miſs Capel as ſhe walked the deck, holding by the arm either of Mr. or Mrs. Allen, and the deceptive light of the moon, with her black veſtment rather obſcuring her at a diſtance, he could not contain his admiration when he ſaw her ſo near him! She flaſh'd upon him like a ray of lightning, but being herſelf unconſcious of her charms, her manners, which were alike

to

to all, from the peaſant to the perſon ſhe was now introduced to, were ſo eaſy and unreſtrained, with an affability ſo engaging, though that ſhe paid the viſit reluctantly, ſhe could not diſengage herſelf, or rob nature of her refinement; that, notwithſtanding Mr. Hamilton was ſtruck with her firſt appearance, as was viſible to the penetration of Mr. Allen, who was never at a loſs to account for almoſt every action of others, as well as his own; yet her amiable addreſs, which had no other reſerve than what added to her attraction, made her beauty leſſen in proportion as he had more of her converſation; for though at ſo early an age (being juſt turned of eighteen) having been drawn into, not only converſation, but controverſy by her father, who did it for her improvement and inſtruction, ſo had it taken off the timidity natural to her age, and which is in general allowed as a grace; but Miſs Capel's mind was expanded by the leſſons of her parent, and therefore the freedom of her converſation was only checked by her own know-

ledge

ledge of propriety, as her talk was corrected by the refinement of language, and the delicacy of opinion.

Mr. Hamilton, who was a Gentleman of education, having been bred at Oxford, and was at this time a Gentleman Commoner of St. John's College, could not but be greatly gratified in the converſation of a beautiful young woman, whoſe ſentiment ſeemed ſo congenial with his own; yet his tranſport received a ſmall check, when he conſidered her as the daughter of a clergyman, who, from his appearance (though reſpectable) he could neither hope, or expect, to hear that he was a dignified Doctor, or held a ſee in commendam; he had therefore no other way left to expreſs his approbation of the young Lady's mental qualification, than congratulating the ſuppoſed father on his daughter's improvement; at the ſame time complimenting him on his ability, as well as attention, to her inſtruction, concluding, a father could not do better than take his own child as his pupil.

This

This open and unreſerved converſation was, after they had taken their repaſt, and the Gentlemen had each taken two or three glaſſes of wine, in which the Ladies were compelled to join, and to drink the King's health, which Mr. Hamilton gave in a bumper.

Mr. Hamilton had come poſt from London, and therefore was perfect maſter of all the politicals in and out of the cabinet. He was too from his ſtation in a habit of conſtitutional knowledge; he therefore led naturally to a ſubject on which his mind had been accuſtomed to treat, and aſking Mr. Allen ſeveral queſtions, relative to his opinion of the conduct of the miniſtry, which had at this period drawn the attention of the nation at large with various opinions, as guided by intereſt or duty: But Mr. Allen happening to live at a great diſtance, and entirely out of the vortex of political diſputes, was compelled to acknowledge his ignorance of the tranſactions, and to ſay he held only a ſmall living

living in a county three hundred miles from that ſcene of controverſy.

This declaration ſtill more amazed Mr. Hamilton, for though he judged him to be what he was, yet he could not ſuppoſe the daughter could have gleaned ſuch knowledge in a ſpot ſo diſtant from the polite world, and when her language and manners would lead you to imagine ſhe had been bred there. Theſe reflections led him to compliment the imaginary father on her attainments; but Mr. Allen, not willing he ſhould continue in an error, in a ſecret, he had liberty to unfold, by permiſſion of his ward, told him the young Lady was not his daughter; but ſhe had adopted him as her guardian, and he thought himſelf honored in the truſt.

Through the evening Mr. Allen obſerved, with extreme ſatisfaction, that the vivacity of youth would in time counteract the prejudice of ill-judged education, and the more Miſs Capel's mind was expanded by diverſity of converſation,

converſation, he hoped ſhe would be weaned from that love of ſolitude her intellects had been taught to imbibe.

When they had wiſhed Mr. Hamilton a good repoſe, and had taken leave (which he would not let them do till they had promiſed him to breakfaſt there the next morning) and were retired into their ſmall apartment, Mr. Allen aſked Miſs Capel, "if ſhe did not intend to admit Mr. Hamilton into the liſt of her new friends, for he was ſure ſhe might call him, from poſitive conviction, a good ſort of a man?"

Miſs Capel, ſmiling, ſaid, "Indeed ſhe did;" and Mrs. Allen added, "that ſhe thought him very handſome too; but I cannot think, for my part, what he can be going to Spain for," ſaid ſhe.

"That circumſtance we may, perhaps, learn during the courſe of our voyage," replied Mr. Allen."

They

They now retired to their ſeveral cots, though Miſs Capel would not be perſuaded to pull off her cloaths; but having, for ſeveral days, undergone great fatigue, both of mind and body, being now, as ſhe thought, at the end almoſt of all her difficulties, they both yielded to the oppreſſion of nature, and ſhe enjoyed ſome hours of repoſe, uninterrupted by the haſty tread of the ſailors on deck; for the wind being fair and very mild, the ſhip only run with a gentle motion, and before ſhe awoke in the morning they were out of ſight of the land; but the wonderful expanded world of waters they then beheld, bounded only by the horizon, made the Rector expreſs himſelf, in admiration of that Providence, which ſuperintends and protects the mariner, even when expoſed to the tempeſtuous turbulency of that powerful element, now to them ſo calm and quiet.

In the morning they were at the apartment of Mr. Hamilton, at eight o'clock, the hour appointed, as Miſs Capel had declared

ſhe

ſhe was an early riſer, and Mr. Hamilton, ſaying he was never in bed after ſeven o'clock; his reception of Mr. Allen and his wife was perfectly friendly and agreeable; but when he ſpoke to Miſs Capel, he took her hand with great reſpect, expreſſing at the time his apprehenſions, that her reſt muſt have been greatly diſturbed, not only from the noiſe which muſt naturally be in a ſhip at ſea, but from the bad accommodations he feared ſhe met with in ſo confined a place as a ſmall cot; but added, he was determined they ſhould exchange cabins with him, for any lodging would do (he ſaid) for a bachelor, one too, whoſe mind would not ſuffer him to enjoy reſt, though the bed was of down, Miſs Capel declaring ſhe had not ſlept better for ſome time, made his fine eyes expreſs uncommon pleaſure; but Mrs. Allen could not help remarking what a young Gentleman of his age could have to diſturb his repoſe.

Mr. Hamilton only replied, with a ſigh, and then ordering the ſervant to attend, they partook

partook of coffee, tea and chocolate, while the repaſt was heightened by the cheerful converſation of the good paſtor, and the liberal juvenality of youth in the entertainer. — The Captain too was one of the party, and though a ſurly Spaniard (as in general they are called) threw off his native choler, and joined in the hilarity, Mr. Hamilton frequently calling him *Don*, which giving Mr. Allen an opportunity to expatiate on honors and titles, aſked him, in a gentle manner, "If he had acquired that diſtinction from any noble atchievement of his own, or his anceſtors?"

But Don Alvaro Donoro, offended at the ſuppoſition, roſe from the table, and ſtanding erect, pulling down his morning gown, and wrapping it round him, with all the true pride of his nation, anſwered from *inheritance.*

Mr. Allen, from his manners, was fearful he had offended him, and begged pardon for his premature curioſity, which the Captain readily

readily accepted, ſaying, "He was no ways offended."

Miſs Capel ſpoke to him in Spaniſh (having acquired a ſmall knowledge of that tongue from Madame La Fey) at which he ſmiled; but the reſt of the company were aſtoniſhed to hear her addreſs him in that language; and when they retired after breakfaſt to their ſeveral apartments (though they were to dine with Mr. Hamilton) Mr. Allen expreſſed his ſurpriſe at her being acquainted with a tongue which was never ſpoke in England but by the natives, who either travelled or traded there; when ſhe informed him how ſhe attained the acquiſition, and that, in their very early days, ſhe would, in the morning, ſend her and her ſiſters into the library of their father, and give him a ſalutation in Spaniſh, and in an evening, when they were retiring to reſt, they did the ſame; on which he would give them a parental benediction, calling them at the ſame time his lovely Donna-Emily and Donna-Mary: But

I little thought I ſhould be ſo unfortunate as to profit by the inſtruction (ſaid Miſs Capel) as to call it to my remembrance upon ſuch an occaſion, yet it was an inſtruction I was ambitious to acquire. Madame La Fey talked it with great fluency, and politely.

" Then (ſaid Mr. Allen) ſhe found no difficulty to make herſelf underſtood when ſhe got to Madrid."

" But my ſiſters (returned Miſs Capel) did not take ſuch delight in learning Spaniſh as I did, nor do they ſpeak it ſo fluently."

" I dare ſay (replied Mr. Allen) ſhe has made them proficients by this time, and well paid for it too."

CHAP.

CHAP. XXX.

THE dinner, to which they were invited by Mr. Hamilton, was ſerved up with the greateſt elegance (for his own ſervant was a profeſſed cook) notwithſtanding they were many leagues at ſea, there were every variety the ſeaſon afforded; the afternoon paſſed in the enjoyment of every ſocial impulſe, as harmony and friendſhip are natural aſſociates in accidental meetings; even Miſs Capel began to relax in her ſeverity, and in anſwer to the whiſper of Mr. Allen, whether ſociety had no allurements, to acknowledge there were times when it might be diſ-

penſed with; as the night advanced, the moon, which was juſt paſt the full, again aroſe in magnificent ſplendor, when they not only walked on the deck, but had ſeats, the mariners being all retired to reſt, excepting thoſe who were on the watch.

They now were again entertained with the hautboy, and Miſs Capel diſcovered her own judgment by the encomiums ſhe beſtowed on Mr. Hamilton's performance, adding (addreſſing Mr. Allen) "Her father's ſervant, Auguſtin, the black, was a great proficient on that, as well as almoſt all other inſtruments," an incautious ſally of information, which ſhe would have condemned from the lips of Mr. Allen, after the ſacred caution ſhe had given him, "not to reveal one circumſtance relating to her to any one, *who*, or *what ſhe was*, or *whence ſhe came*," and before a man of Mr. Hamilton's penetration, who did not let the obſervation ſlip, but gathered from the occaſion, that her father muſt have been at leaſt a Gentleman, from keeping a

ſervant

ſervant (a black too) as a muſician in his houſe: It is, however, poſſible the anecdote might have eſcaped him (his mind being over-charged with family inquietudes, that he thought engroſſed all his faculties) had not the new acquaintance he had made with Miſs Capel told him, that, however abſorb'd (in imagination) his heart might to him be fenced with perplexities, there will ever be found an avenue for love to gain a poſſeſſion in a young and ſuſceptible boſom, where the object is ſo captivating, and, in other reſpects, as amiable.

Mr. Allen had obſerved, from the firſt moment that he converſed with her, he was charmed, and when love enters by the ear, it makes a more durable impreſſion, than the attraction caught by the eye; but in the day, and ſucceeding evening, the guardian's obſervations led him to ſee that it was an attachment, the ſeparation they were about ſoon to make, would not eradicate, and began to be apprehenſive for the ſafety of his ward, and

to reflect whether, in the too hasty acceptation of his acquaintance, he might not again have been the cause in this second, as they primarily were in the first instance, to lead this deserted and beautiful family to do wrong; for he did not know who Mr. Hamilton was, he, as himself, had taken a passage to Spain, and as he had said Miss Capel was his ward, he might naturally suppose there was more to protect than her person, and though that was so charming, he appeared to be more sensible of the attractions of her mind, yet the idea of a fortune might supersede both; and besides, she had a fortune, and a large one too.—He, however, relied on Miss Capel's prudence and circumspection, who had condemned her sister for impropriety: Besides, he did not observe the least tendency of a partiality on her part, and believed, if Mr. Hamilton was to leave them that moment, with a certainty that they were never to see him again, it would not give her a mental regret; but it would not be so, he saw, with Mr. Hamilton, and therefore determined

termined in his mind to ſeek an opportunity the next day for a little private converſation with him, and by throwing out a few diſtant hints, gather ſome knowledge of who he was; that his appearance was that of a Gentleman was certain, as well as his manners, and the diſtant and reſpectful carriage of his ſervant towards him; but all theſe were not to be relied on, as they might all prove deluſive.

Mr. Allen, however, need not have raiſed ſo many inquietudes to diſturb himſelf; Mr. Hamilton had determined on the ſame thing, and therefore the next morning not only gave him the wiſhed-for opportunity of private converſation, but ſought it with ſuch aſſiduity, that he could not have retreated from his reſolution if he would; in fact, Mr. Hamilton gave a note to his ſervant, in charge to give to Mr. Allen when he quitted the cabin in the morning, the ſubſtance of which was to "beg the company of Mr. Allen for half an hour in his apartment."

As the Rector went fully prepoſſeſſed, what would be the reſult of this viſit, he had armed himſelf, at all points, not to let a word ſlip that might infringe on his promiſe to her: In fact, he went with a purpoſed reſolution to find out who *he* was. As to his ward, he was ſure, ſhe could ſtand the moſt ſevere ſcrutiny, whenever it was neceſſary, for his partiality to her was ſuch, that he did not believe there was ſuch another woman in the world; indeed, he could, in the compariſon, call to mind the day when Mrs. Allen gave him her hand, in all the grace of youth and beauty; but now the object being preſent, gained the preference in his eſtimation, even to her.

Thus equipped, he made his appearance in the great cabin at noon on the following day, where he found Mr. Hamilton impatiently waiting for him, as he ſaw by his watch lying on the table by him, he was not dreſſed, but appeared dejected, and his eyes and countenance were expreſſive of apprehenſion:

henſion: He roſe, however, at his entrance, and held him his hand, thanking him, at the ſame time, for his kind attention, and then begging him to be ſeated, ſat down himſelf again, ſighing heavily.

The Rector did as he was requeſted, and took a ſeat oppoſite to him on the other ſide of the table, when Mr. Hamilton, putting his watch in his fob, ſaid, with a forced ſmile, "I have been counting the minutes till your arrival."

"Has the time appeared ſo long? ſaid Mr. Allen, drawing his chair cloſer.

"When the mind is oppreſſed (returned Mr. Hamilton) we are haſty to find ſome ſuccour, as ſuch is mine, and for that cauſe, I have taken the liberty to requeſt your friendſhip, as well as information, reſpecting the young Lady you call your ward."

Mr. Allen, not expecting to be ſo formidably aſſailed, replied, abruptly, "Sir;" which Mr. Hamilton conſtruing to ariſe from his candid declaration, continued, "I doubt not, Sir, but your expreſſion of ſurpriſe proceeds from the haſty manner I deliver myſelf in reſpect to Miſs Capel; but as it requires I ſhould be explanatory on my ſide (and not wiſhing to deceive myſelf) I have only to beg of you, as guardian to that young Lady, (and conſequently muſt know) to inform me who, and of what family, ſhe is; for every wiſh of my heart and ſoul are ſo wrapped up in every thing that concerns her, that I muſt feel an additional, nay the greateſt, aggravation of my preſent misfortunes, without ſuch information."

Mr. Hamilton, ceaſing to ſpeak, gave the Rector opportunity to reply, who told him, "that his ingenuous declaration intitled him to as ſincere a reply; but he was, in the firſt place, only a nominal guardian, an office which ſhe had requeſted him to accept ſince the

the death of her father, who died in May laſt, and for whom ſhe was now in mourning; that they reſided in his pariſh; ſhe had an independent fortune; but what, or any thing further, he was not at liberty to divulge, and there were many circumſtances that he was a ſtranger to himſelf; all he could ſay, ſhe was the moſt amiable of women.

The laſt circumſtance, Mr. Hamilton ſaid, Mr. Allen muſt have obſerved him to be very ſenſible of, indeed, ſo much ſo, that my future fate depends on her favour. For myſelf (here Mr. Allen drew his chair ſtill nearer) I am very unfortunately ſituated: I am an only child, and heir, as well to a large eſtate, as preſumptive heir to an Earldom. I at preſent enjoy an independent fortune left me by my mother's brother (a Mr. Hamilton) whoſe name I have now adopted, for it is not my family name; but my father and I not agreeing, though I can ſay, with great ſincerity, that I love him affectionately; that I never offended him in thought or in act,

and that I bear him the moſt unlimitted duty and affection; yet there are ſome errors in his conduct, which to me are ſo reprehenſible, and in which he perſeveres, that when I came of age (and I am now juſt two-and-twenty) I reſolved to releaſe myſelf from being obliged to witneſs what I diſapproved, by making the tour of Spain, which I was prevented from doing, on being recalled home on the death of this uncle. When I made the tour of Europe, three years ago; from Spain, I intended to have extended my journey farther Eaſtward, but Miſs Capel has arreſted my intention, and now my ſtay will be no longer than your's, if I receive permiſſion from her, or any encouragement from you, to hope my attentions will not be rejected; there are in my ſituation many incidents, which it is incumbent in me to keep ſecret, in duty to my father; but a time muſt come, when I ſhall have liberty to declare them: In the mean time I beg you, Sir, to rely on what I ſay, and to give me

me credit for the truth of what I muſt not unfold.

Mr. Allen bowed aſſent, when Mr. Hamilton aſked "what was their inducement in viſiting Spain?" which the Rector acknowledging was one of the incidents he had not permiſſion to divulge, raiſed a doubtful fluſh on Mr. Hamilton's face, who, heſitatingly, ſaid, "I hope it is no rival you are purſuing?"

But Mr. Allen ſatisfied him on this ſurmiſe, though he added, "that till Miſs Capel was made eaſier in her mind, from events which had happened in her own connexions, he did not think ſhe would be prevailed on to make any acceſſions towards her own happineſs, till they were fully adjuſted."

"And (added the Rector) as I perceive you are precipitate in determining, in thus haſtily informing me of the ſituation of your heart (the natural impetuoſity of youthful warmth) I will caution you in your future

conduct, Sir, by telling you Miſs Capel, my ward, is very tenacious of propriety of behaviour. She has alſo a ſtrict notion of honour, an invariable regard to truth, that a deviation from rectitude would never be pardoned. Theſe are virtues her father implanted in her mind from infancy, and from which, I am certain, ſhe will not ſwerve: I would therefore (for your own ſake) recommend to you, to check the natural precipitancy of your nature, and (however repugnant it may be to the ardency of your love) refrain making her acquainted with your ſentiments, till ſuch time as her mind ſhall be relieved from the anxiety of a trial this voyage has obliged her to make. You may depend on me as a friend, and if an opportunity offers, an advocate too. I can ſay no more. Honor and friendſhip forbid I ſhould be more explicit."

Mr. Hamilton thanked Mr. Allen for an inſtance of friendſhip he felt himſelf (he ſaid) unworthy of deſerving, from the ſhort acquaintance

quaintance they had had together, though aſ-ſuring him every day ſhould make an increaſe in his good opinion, and he could not give a greater proof than ſacrificing all his feelings as a man, and his raptures as a lover, till ſuch time as he (Mr. Allen) ſhould ſay an opportunity, favourable to the warmeſt wiſhes of both, were arrived; yet he could not but lament, that, by being reſtrained, he was with-held from both ſharing in her ſolicitudes, as well as in endeavouring to ſoften them.

" Sir (returned Mr. Allen) Miſs Capel poſſeſſes ſo much fortitude, that ſhe can ſuſtain all incidents, when her own heart don't reproach her with acting wrong, and notwithſtanding ſhe compliments me by ſuppreſſing her own opinions, and yielding to mine, her ſtrength of judgment is ſuch, that ſhe would always act right, without any other director. She appointed me the guardian of her conduct, but I accepted it as the protector of her perſon.

Reſtrained

Reſtrained by his future hopes, as well as promiſe to Mr. Allen, Mr. Hamilton became more guarded in his behaviour, and though from their firſt meeting on board the Illſparanzo, they had always joined at every meal, which ceremony could not be diſpenſed with without drawing the obſervation of every one, conſequently now, when he wiſhed not to notice it, he endeavoured, in the hours of converſation (in which he had particularly addreſſed Miſs Capel) to revert to diſtant obſervations, and would enter into diſputation with the Rector, while the Ladies either converſed together, or ſat ſilent; but this was a trial too ſevere for either love or prudence long to endure, and therefore under pretence of buſineſs, or letter writing, Mr. Hamilton would abſent himſelf, and only meet them when neceſſity obliged him to it.

From ſuch polite attention, as he had been accuſtomed to ſhew his viſitors, the cauſe of the failure was only known to the guardian, while the ward, whoſe penetration could not but

but obſerve the change, firſt expreſſed herſelf by noticing, " that Mr. Hamilton was not ſo cheerful as he uſed to be, then that he did not appear ſo fond of their company; again, ſhe would expreſs herſelf ſorry for ſo eaſily accepting his firſt invitation, and gently blame Mr. Allen for intruding them upon him." — Sometimes ſhe would ſay he was volatile, then that he was ſtudious; in fact, her converſation, when he was abſent, always alluded to him, and Mr. Allen now began to think, whether an explanation would not be leſs painful to her than this unmerited reſerve; but reflecting on the events which would ſoon come to a certainty, reſpecting the ſiſters, he thought it beſt not to hazard either her diſpleaſure, or her quiet, by intruding on her mind a ſenſation ſhe had never yet experienced, though he thought before, and now, by her ſeveral interrogations, was almoſt convinced, that ſhe beheld Mr. Hamilton with partial eyes, and though ſhe could no other way account for his change of conduct than thoſe ſhe had enumerated, yet in her heart

ſhe

ſhe wiſhed a more ſubſtantial cauſe could be inveſtigated for it.

Mr. Hamilton perſevered in his conduct till they arrived on the coaſt of Spain, and was ſafe moored in the harbour of Valencia, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of the penance, but determined to be of their party, either openly or in ſecret, and as his reſerved behaviour had of courſe checked the vivacity of his companions, when they landed, and he begged to accompany them to the inn, (where Miſs Capel expected he was going to take a final leave) the inſtantaneous fluſh of ſatisfaction which ſhaded her features, would, to an indifferent obſerver, been ſufficient to ſhew the cauſe; and if Mr. Allen was the only one, who ſo plainly read the ſecret of her heart, there might be another preſent, who was not wholly inattentive to the movements. As the Rector now ſaw that his company would be acceptable, acknowledged the pleaſure they ſhould have in his eſcort,

eſcort, while Miſs Capel remained ſilent, and Mrs. Allen, who was ignorant of the cauſe, though not of the effect, gave her full aſſent, by ſaying, "ſhe was glad he had recovered his ſpirits, and would not leave them."

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXI.

AS it was noon when they landed, on their arrival at the inn they ordered a dinner to be dreſſed, to which the Captain was invited, and Mr. Allen ſettled with him the remainder of the money which was due for their paſſage, as did Mr. Hamilton; and their deſtination being mentioned, as they intended to proceed part of the way towards Madrid that afternoon, and Mr. Hamilton declaring it was the route he was purſuing, they agreed to take a carriage that would accommodate four, and his ſervant ſhould follow

low in a voitore (or chair) with his baggage and fire-arms. In this manner they proceeded on their route, while a day or two before every precaution was taken to ſeparate what a few accommodating words had now brought more cloſely together, Mr. with Mrs. Allen, Mr. Hamilton, and the daughter of the Earl of Marr.

As Mr. Hamilton's time of probation was not yet expired, for the nearer they approached Madrid, the greater increaſe was there to the anxiety of Miſs Capel, in the apprehenſion of how ſhe ſhould find her ſiſters ſituated; the converſation was therefore confined to the obſervation of the Gentlemen as they paſſed, and when they arrived at Cappell's, where they were to reſt for the night, purpoſing to ſet out early the next morning, the Ladies retired ſoon to their apartment, after taking ſome refreſhment, and left the Gentlemen together, whoſe converſation naturally leading to the ſubject neareſt their hearts, for Mr. Allen was greatly prejudiced

in

in favor of Mr. Hamilton, and thought that he could not reſign his truſt into ſuch proper hands as a Gentleman of probity and honor, which he firmly believed him to be.

While the lover was lamenting the conſtrained behaviour he was compelled to aſſume, and waiting permiſſion either to be releaſed from his engagement, or that Mr. Allen would ſo far befriend him as to try to ingratiate him into the eſteem of Miſs Capel by his recommendation.

The Rector, though he thought little was wanting from him to ſay in his behalf, yet, at the ſame time, ſhe would object to any thing as an overture, while the fate of her ſiſters hung in ſuſpenſe, and by that means finally put a period, by a haſty determination, to what would, on future reflection, embitter her ſucceeding days, for he ſaw that Mr. Hamilton poſſeſſed a competent ſhare of pride, and would ill-brook a repulſe founded on caprice only, as he could not ſuppoſe, from

from what he ſaw, that any family incident could, or ought, to interfere with her own ſucceeding advantages in life; his own (which were great) not being ſufficiently powerful to check the proſpect of his happineſs, and where he had placed the foundation of a perpetuity of felicity in the poſſeſſion of Miſs Capel.—Mr. Allen was at length, brought by his anxiety and perſuaſion, to promiſe he would, the firſt opportunity, ſound her inclination, and if the diſcourſe ſhould lead for him to be more explanatory, mention him with favor and partiality.—With theſe aſſurances the lover promiſed to be more compoſed; while the Ladies in the bedchamber were inclined to be muſing, Miſs Capel, it is natural to ſuppoſe, had almoſt all her thoughts directed to that channel, which had already drawn her into the kingdom of Spain, and if a few did ſtray towards the perſonal, as well as mental, attractions of Mr. Hamilton, her youth (notwithſtanding her prudence, with the admonitions ſhe had received from her father, and her own idea of propriety) will plead

plead ſufficiently powerful to exculpate her from any charge of levity in the eyes of the moſt circumſpect of her own ſex, and her beauty and accompliſhments an irreſiſtible bar againſt any cenſure from the other: But Mrs. Allen letting her thoughts ſtray to the parſonage and her family, would, during her muſing, and while they were preparing for bed, occaſionally expreſs the pleaſure ſhe ſhould enjoy in ſeeing Charles at Chriſtmas, and hoping too of ſeeing her Edward very ſoon.

CHAP. XXXII.

THE next morning early they proceeded on their journey to Madrid, and arrived ſafe at an hotel in that city in the evening, where Mr. Allen complaining of being unwell, from a cold (which was the caſe) they retired early to reſt, each to enjoy that repoſe, which fatigue, after a long journey, requires, or, if they prefer'd it, to the quiet enjoyment of their own thoughts and obſervations on their future intentions.

The next morning Mr. Allen's cold was ſo much increaſed, that it was thought prudent

dent he ſhould confine himſelf within doors, and poſtpone his intention till the next morning, which was for him to go to the ſtreet from whence their letter was directed, and learn if Madame Bolazze was ſtill a reſident there. Miſs Capel was not to go, leaſt ſhe ſhould be ſeen by her, and in that caſe, if ſhe had made an improper uſe of their money, ſhe would take care not to be ſeen, and very poſſibly not let them be found either. Mr. Hamilton was going to wait on the Engliſh Ambaſſador, with letters he had of recommendation from ſome of our Nobility, which ſhewing to Mr. Allen, put it beyond a doubt (if any had been entertained) that he was the perſon he ſaid he was.

When he was dreſſed, he came into the ſitting room to take his leave, telling Mr. Allen he feared he ſhould not return till the evening, as it was moſt probable he ſhould dine with Lord W——, the Ambaſſador. As they had never ſeen him but in a travelling dreſs, the fine figure he made, by adding the

the ornaments of faſhion to his manly, fine, handſome perſon, and his addreſs ſtill giving additional grace, tho' it made the Rector and his wife only behold him with complacency and eſteem, it was viſible, that, with both theſe conjoined, a partiality, that ſhewed itſelf in the bluſhing countenance and enlivened eye of Miſs Capel, was only checked by his ſaying, "that he ſhould not be ſeen any more that day."

When he left the room, Miſs Capel roſe and went to the window, and Mr. Allen following her, they ſaw him get into the carriage, while his valet, dreſſed likewiſe in a handſome livery (which he had not worn on board of the ſhip) briſkly mounted behind his maſter, and bidding the coachman drive on, he drew up the glaſs of the carriage, but not before he had looked up at the window, where ſeeing them ſtand, he bowed his head with a prophetic ſmile to Mr. Allen, and drove off.

They then turned from the window, and Miſs Capel heaving a ſigh, gave the Rector an opportunity to make an attempt at an inveſtigation he was very fearful of beginning, firſt in the apprehenſion of giving her offence, or otherwiſe in reviving the dormant embers of her paſt troubles, as well as the preſent ones, which the moſt trivial incident always rouſed, by the force of her too prompt ſenſibility.

He did, however, venture to aſk, as they returned to their ſeats, "Why that ſigh, Miſs Capel?" But preſently received a rebuke for the queſtion.

"Need you aſk, Sir, I am ſure you know my cauſe for ſighing."

"Some," returned the Rector, timidly, "I do know; perhaps not *all*."

"*Not all!*" repeated the ward, laying an emphaſis on the words *not all*, as if her guardian

guardian had thought ſhe had concealed from his knowledge, what he ought to have known, and bluſhed at the ſuggeſtion; but the Rector underſtanding her inſinuation, continued, "Pardon me, Miſs Capel, young Ladies have ſecrets of their own."

"I, Sir (ſhe replied) have none; you are intruſted with all my ſecrets."

In theſe anſwers the Rector was more diſtant than in advance toward an explanation; but reſting on her laſt words, he ſaid, "He wiſhed he was, for then he ſhould be acquainted with her ſentiments reſpecting a very amiable young Gentleman, who was ſolicitous to cultivate her favor."

This was coming to the point, not only at once, but ſo abruptly and unexpectedly by Miſs Capel, who, though her partiality was viſible to the Rector, and the Gentleman in queſtion could not be miſtaken, as there was no other of their acquaintance than Mr.

Hamilton, yet ſhe did not expect ſolicitation, and was content with enjoying her own opinion of him privately in her breaſt, nor thought of detection, till Mr. Allen again enforcing his argument, by mentioning his name, with this addition, that "He was a Gentleman of fortune, and heir to a Peerage."

She now could not avoid owning that ſhe underſtood him, by a reply which, at the ſame time it commended her rectitude, it diſcovered her love. "Mr. Allen, Sir (ſaid ſhe, heſitatingly and confuſed) what do you mean?"

"I mean (anſwered the guardian) very well, by ſaying, that Mr. Hamilton is a very amiable and worthy man, and I could wiſh my ward would entertain the ſame opinion."

He was afraid to be more explicit, and, indeed, thought he had now gone too far; but Miſs Capel immediately replied, "I do think ſo, Sir, and I hope you allow it ſufficient. I do

do think Mr. Hamilton a very aimable Gentleman; but can you, Mr. Allen, imagine that I will permit a thought, reſpecting any future proſpects of my own, to interfere, while the fate of thoſe dear children, committed to my care by my father, hangs in ſuſpenſe? Is not their honor, their reputation at ſtake, and while there is a doubt reſpecting their future welfare, I can never yield to entertain, even in proſpect, additional happineſs to myſelf, whatever violence I may do to my own inclination by the ſacrifice. The ſmall knowledge, Sir, that they have been the cauſe of my attaining of the world, ſhews me that virtue yields to diſtinction, for Don Alvaro preferred title to honor, and Madame La Fey ſubſtituted a falſe name, to ſcreen the violation of that integrity ſhe knew ſhe ought to poſſeſs, and Mr. Hamilton has adopted the ſame mode to conceal his own virtue: I beg therefore, Sir, that at preſent my feelings may not be farther tried by any repetition on the ſubject, as I ſee how variably human nature acts in all.

At this moment Mrs. Allen entered, whoſe preſence enforced the injunction for the time, though the words "ſacrificing her own inclinations," her good opinion of Mr. Hamilton, and the two expreſſive terms, "at preſent," implying a future repetition, might be allowed, made the Rector (though he had met with an actual defeat) rejoice as at a victory; therefore when Mrs. Allen came in, as he was prohibited from a reply, expreſſed his joy, by his uſual mode of rubbing his hands, and anſwering her laſt deſcant on poor human nature, at the ſame time with, "and you will ever find it ſo, Miſs Capel."

"What, my dear, gives you pleaſure now, (ſaid the wife) I hope, however, your cold is better?"

"Yes," he returned, "it is:" When Miſs Capel ſaid, "ſhe could account for her guardian's being ſo apparently pleaſed, and was ſure he was ſatisfied with her argument, and acquieſced in her opinion and ſentiments."

"Indeed,

"Indeed, I do acquieſce in your opinion, Miſs Capel," returned the Rector, "if I differ from you in your ſentiments."

"I have, Sir, expreſſed them as the ſame," ſaid ſhe.

"But I have conſtrued them very differently," replied the guardian.

However the Rector might define in his diſſimilarity of opinion and ſentiment to favor a cauſe, in which he hoped Mr. Hamilton would ſucceed, it is certain, nevertheleſs, that his ward's declaration was true, that ſhe meant them as the ſame; though ſituated as ſhe at the moment was, we can with him allow, that had ſhe equivocated, it would have been pardonable, as duty, which was held by her as the firſt moral virtue, guided her in the firſt, and the heart of a young Lady of ſenſibility might ſtray without impunity towards the other.

In the evening the lover returned, elated with hope, and depreſſed by fear, taking the features of the Rector, however, for his guide, in ſeeing him placid and cheerful, he caught the infection, which being ſtimulated by a few bumpers he had drank of Burgundy at the table of the Ambaſſador, to the honor of his Monarch and his country, ſhewed an unuſual flow of ſpirits, which being aided by a good underſtanding, a ſufficiency of natural wit, and a temper prompt to hilarity, made him more agreeable than they had ever found him. He too, in conſequence of the animation he had attained from the circulation of a cheerful glaſs, and the intimation of the Rector's countenance, forgot the reſtraint, he was wont to obſerve towards the object of his heart's beſt wiſhes, and not only addreſſed her with his accuſtomed reſpectful familiarity, but even to hint at the untoward impulſes of his breaſt, and to ſay, that ſincere and unaffected love could not be reſtrained, or ſuppreſſed: He, however, received a check

check from the Rector's eyes, while the ward, alarmed at his declarations, and her own danger, timid too and fearful, in conſequence of the recent converſation ſhe had held with her guardian, expreſſed to Mrs. Allen (in a whiſper) her wiſh to retire, which being aſſented to, they left the Gentlemen together, when Mr. Allen related all that paſſed between him and his ward, not omitting to add his *opinion*, that her *ſentiments* were in favor of the lover.

This important buſineſs being negociated, and the Lady's fears and apprehenſions alarmed, the guardian could enforce no argument of weight ſufficient to prevent the determined reſolution of the lover, to make an open and candid declaration of his paſſion to Miſs Capel the next morning; and tho' the Rector told him, that the ſame arguments ſhe had uſed to him were ſtill in force, and the great hazard he would run by perhaps incurring her laſting diſpleaſure, he neverthe-

leſs ſaid he had rather ſuſtain that, than the torturing ſtate of ſuſpenſe, and being actually of an impatient temper, made him the leſs able to brook reſtraint.

The Rector met them at breakfaſt ready prepared to ſet out in ſearch of the houſe of Madame La Fey, alias Madame Bolazze, and Mr. Hamilton ſaying he had taken apartments in the vicinity of the Court, Mr. Allen, to make converſation, aſked Miſs Capel "if ſhe would not remove her reſidence to a more convenient ſituation than an hotel?"

In an inſtant, with great quickneſs, ſhe returned a reply, with an other queſtion: — "Sir, how can you propoſe ſuch an expedient? It avails little the inconvenience of a place, when, perhaps, a few hours may ſee us returning to a ſea port, on our way to England, and the dear cottage."

Here ſhe ſtopped, for in mentioning the cottage,

cottage, ſhe thought ſhe had ſaid too much in the preſence of Mr. Hamilton.

The Rector ſaid, it might poſſibly be ſo, and Miſs Capel it probably may not. We will, however, ſhe replied, wait the return of your viſit, which I ſhall do with much anxiety.

CHAP. XXXII.

MR. Hamilton having been kept in total ignorance of the cauſe of their journey to Spain, and the guardian now taking his hat and cane to ſet out in ſearch of the fugitives, with an interpreter with him, and Mrs. Allen leaving the room to accommodate him with theſe ſeveral requiſites, the lover was unſolicited left alone with the miſtreſs of his fate, a moment on which ſo critically hung the deſtiny of his future happineſs, a moment too, which ſhe had juſt declared was in her breaſt already filled with anxiety and ſuſpenſe.

Senſible,

Senſible, however, as the lover was of his own ſituation from her declaration, the impetuoſity of his natural temper, and the violence of his love, ſuperſeded every other conſideration, and the opportune abſence of Mrs. Allen, added additional force to his reſolve: He therefore made no delay, but moving his ſeat to a chair next that in which Miſs Capel ſat, began the conference, by giving a benediction to the minute which had proved ſo favourable to him as the preſent, in being left alone with her. He then enumerated his advantages in life, at the ſame time lamenting that, from family diſagreement, he was with-held, at preſent, from being more candid. In reſpect to himſelf he had nothing to fear from the moſt exact ſcrutiny, hinted at the ill conduct of his parent, whom he reſpected, acknowledged his independency, and concluded by obſerving, that all theſe combined were of no eſtimation in his eyes, unleſs Miſs Capel, the moſt lovely, as the moſt amiable of women, would condeſcend to give him the hope that he was not totally

diſregarded

diſregarded by her, and that ſhe would ſhare them with him. This laſt declaration he was encouraged to make from the favourable conſtruction the Rector had given in his *opinion* of her *ſentiments* in regard to him.

Miſs Capel ſuffered Mr. Hamilton to proceed without any interruption till he had concluded, and then with much diffidence and confuſion, yet with great reſolution too ſhe gave him a reply, by obſerving, that titles and affluence could gain little influence on a mind which had been cultured in the boſom of ſolitude, and in a cottage; ſhe knew ambition by theory, and pomp and grandeur by the ſame inſtruction, and wiſhed never know them by practice. I am, Sir (ſhe continued) unfortunately ſituated, and more ſo, as I am compelled to nouriſh my griefs by keeping them ſecret. Mr. Allen only is acquainted with them; but I can never ſuffer my mind to tranſgreſs the dying injunctions of a father, or give a moment's reſpite to my preſent uneaſineſs, by indulging a thought reſpecting

reſpecting myſelf. This day (as you, Sir, have heard me ſay) may forward my journey in returning to England, or it may determine my ſtay in Spain for a month; in either caſe I muſt acquieſce, the misfortune which brought me here, drove me from that happy ſecluſion I had been adviſed to cheriſh into the world, in which, Sir, chance occaſioned us to meet; let us then part in the ſame manner. I ſhall ever retain in remembrance the eſteem I ought to hold of a Gentleman from whom I have received ſo many civilites, and I wiſh him to entertain the ſame ſentiment towards me, but nothing more. Did you know my charge, you would commend my reſolution, and I muſt therefore beg, Sir, as an inſtance of the regard you poſſeſs, never to renew the preſent converſation again; and, O bleſſed ſpirit of my dear parent (ſaid ſhe, riſing, while the tears ſtarted in her eyes) look down with complacency and approbation on my conduct, which will be ample reſtitution for any ſacrifice I can make reſpecting myſelf.

Mr.

Mr. Hamilton was ſo ſtruck with the energy and force of her arguments, though he was ſtill more anxious to know a cauſe, which, from her words, led him to think ſhe was compelled to act contrary even to her own inclinations, and her addreſs to her dead father, appealing to him, for his approbation, confirmed him in this conjecture: He was, however, for the firſt time in his life, ſo much intimidated at her determination, that far from preſſing the ſubject farther, in obedience to her requeſt, he remained ſilent, and only begging that ſhe would not deprive him of the pleaſure of thinking her in the number of his friends, ſhe anſwered him haſtily, "Moſt certainly, Sir," and held out her hand to him, which he preſſed to his lips ſo ardently, that the bluſh of modeſty ſuffuſed her face and boſom with a crimſon dye, ſo viſibly to the lover, as almoſt to lead him to hope it proceeded from another ſource, and that the heart aided the approbatory impulſe, had not Mrs. Allen (as uſual) came into the room, who knowing nothing of the tender

con-

conference, apologized to Miſs Capel for her long abſence, and was going to enumerate the various cauſes which had occaſioned the ſuppoſed impropriety, when Mr. Hamilton took his hat, and interrupted her, by bidding them a good morning, when addreſſing Miſs Capel, ſaid, "he hoped ſhe would permit him to dine with them," and ſhe replying, that they ſhould be happy in his company, he left them, when Mrs. Allen remarked, "that it was a ſtrange requeſt, for has he not always been of our party?" ſaid ſhe.

The extreme agitation of Miſs Capel's ſpirits, from this perſonal declaration of Mr. Hamilton's, had only been ſuppreſſed by his preſence, and now that he was gone, every occurrence returned to her recollection, and ſhe found herſelf ſink, as it were, into deſpondency, conſidering that in every circumſtance it appeared, that ſhe was to be unfortunate; the ſtupor that ſhe ſat in, or rather involved in thought, was relieved by Mrs. Allen (who, though not made acquainted with

with the hiſtory by the Rector from delicacy, as it was Miſs Capel's wiſh, yet the attention and conduct of Mr. Hamilton had told her, that were ſhe made a confidant, the ſecret would not be to learn) and ſhe went to her, and with a gentle tap on her ſhoulder, ſaid, "Why ſo ſad, Miſs? Never mind, you know what my good man ſays, 'every thing is for the beſt;" but ſhe could not exert a fortitude at this moment, when on all other occaſions it had never forſaken her, and finding herſelf unequal to it, ſhe roſe, and went to the window to divert her thoughts, when Mrs. Allen ſeeing her increaſed anxiety from her remark, remained ſilent, walking to the other window at the ſame time.

They had not ſtood there a minute, when Miſs Capel, haſtily turning towards her, ſaid, "Mrs. Allen, look, is not that Gentleman paſſing on the other ſide of the way Capt. Langdale? But I am ſure that it is."

Mrs.

Mrs. Allen's attention had been previouſly caught at the ſame moment, and replied, "As I live, it is him indeed: I am ſure it is Mr. Langdale."

"Then (returned Miſs Capel) there needs no more confirmation. Vain is our journey, vain our voyage." Mr. Langdale who had art ſufficient to elude Mr. Allen's penetration, will take effectual care to ſcreen my ſiſters from his view, and mine. Madame La Fey was not the principal in this baſe tranſaction. Mr. Langdale was the ſeducer, "and yet (returned Mrs. Allen) they do not mention his name in the letter, as I remember."

Miſs Capel was now ſo well convinced under whoſe protection her ſiſters were, that ſhe could no longer reſtrain the impulſes of deſpair, when returning to her ſeat, ſhe threw herſelf back, and covering her face with an handkerchief, gave way to a violent flood of tears, which all Mrs. Allen's exhortations could

could not mollify, though in this inſtance ſhe wiſhed to enforce, and did attempt, the adage part quoted, "that every thing was for the laſt." The fair mourner, however, remained inconſolable, and while ſhe continued in this abſorbed ſtate, her mind recurred to preceding incidents, and ſhe traverſed the former conduct of that Gentleman; nor did her memory treacherouſly with-hold from her recollection the ſuſpicion ſhe had once entertained againſt the good Rector; but her heart now ſpurned the idea, ſhe would not even believe it probable, or yet that it were poſſible, he could ſo far deviate from what he appeared, as to be an acceſſary with the patron of his family.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIII.

IN this dejected ſtate ſhe continued till the return of the guardian, when hearing his voice in the antichamber, ſhe threw off the handkerchief from her face, and as he entered the room ſhe met him at the door, ſaying, as he approached, "Well, Sir, I do not aſk you how my ſiſters fare: I do not aſk after Madame La Fey. She had little occaſion to change her name to deceive. I have been well acquainted with their fate ſince you have been abſent."

"Indeed (ſaid the Rector, in return) I am very ſorry, very much concerned."

"Then

" Then (ſaid Miſs Capel) you know Capt. Langdale is in Madrid ?"

" Capt. Langdale in Madrid ! (re-echoed the Rector) who ſays ſo ?"

" Sir (ſaid ſhe) I have ſeen him. Have I not, Mrs. Allen ?"

The guardian then turned to his wife, with a look expreſſive of information, when ſhe replied, " Yes, indeed, my dear, we ſaw him paſs along the ſtreet, and he ſeemed in a great hurry too."

The Rector on this declared he was totally unacquainted with that circumſtance, which inducing Miſs Capel to aſk him " what then occaſioned his regret ?" He related the occurrences of his embaſſy, and the cauſe of his acclamation.

Agreeable to the plan we had adjuſted, I went to the ſtreet in which the fair informers

had ſaid they lived, and inquiring if a Lady, named Mademoiſelle Bolazze, did not live in that neighbourhood, was anſwered "Yes; but that ſhe had been ſome weeks married to Don Pedro de Lovo, Marquis de Sinola. — On this information (continued the Rector) I waved my particular errand, and, with the aſſiſtance of my linguiſt, was informed, that the Marquis was a Nobleman, who, from expenſive living, had greatly decreaſed his paternal inheritance, till this marriage with Mademoiſelle Bolazze, whoſe large fortune had enabled him to retrieve his loſſes, and to regain his former grandeur and ſtate. This intelligence, after a few minutes recollection, made me reſolved to go to the houſe without delay; but was greatly diſappointed when, knocking at the door, a footman, in a rich livery, attended by a female ſervant, informed me the Marchioneſs, with her Lord, and the Miſs Capels, were gone to one of his country ſeats. On this I began to interrogate, through the channel of my interpreter, and learned, that the young Ladies, your ſiſters, were

were her acknowledged wards; that Madame La Fey had impoſed herſelf on the world as a Lady of large fortune, which had induced the Marquis to marry her, and, no doubt (added the guardian to the eldeſt ward) ſhe has in this inſtance made good her pretenſions; but the moſt important event remains yet to be told, for the national loquacity of the female attendant gave me to underſtand your ſiſters were hurried from town at a moment's warning, on account of a young Engliſh Gentleman, who had been very importunate to get a ſight of Miſs Maria (as ſhe called your ſiſter Mary) which her Lady would not permit, though I believe (added the informer) that the Gentleman, if he did not effect an interview, found means to get a letter conveyed to her; and there is another Engliſhman, who is very fond of Miſs Emily."

"Pray (ſaid I, changing the ſubject) to what place are they gone?"

"To

"To one of my Lord's Villa's, near Siglona, about thirty miles off; but come, Pedro (ſaid ſhe to the man) you know we were ordered not to ſay any thing about the young Ladies, nor give information to ſtrangers, that might call to inquire, eſpecially if from England," when looking archly at me, ſhe continued, "And I believe you are one," when taking Pedro by the arm, and ſaying, with a bend of her body, "Benedicta Signior, or good morning, Sir," they civilly ſhut the door, and left me on the out-ſide: At all events, however (continued the Rector) the forty thouſand pounds are loſt."

"That were of little, nay, of no conſequence, if my ſiſters were found (replied Miſs Capel:) But what now, Sir, is to be done? we muſt follow them to this place."

To this Mr. Allen objected; for "if (ſaid he) Madame's fears have already been awakened by two lovers, ſhe will not let any pretenders gain admittance; it muſt be ef-

fected by ſome other mode, which we will conſider about: But don't you, my dear Miſs Capel, yield to ſuch unneceſſary, as well as unprofitable, ſorrow (for ſhe began again to ſuffer herſelf to be overcome with tears) and remember that, though, in the firſt inſtance, we have been unſucceſsful, we are always to continue ſo, and in our preſent ſituation, notwithſtanding we deſerve ſucceſs, you know we cannot command it: Let me therefore beg you to ſuppreſs a grief which can only affect your health, without giving any aid to the cauſe. I have my doubts ſtill in reſpect to Mr. Langdale's being the aggreſſor."

"You will believe, however (returned Miſs Capel) though he might not come with them, he has followed them."

"That makes a great difference in mitigation of the crime (replied the Rector;) but come, it is near dinner time: Mr. Hamilton dines with us, I ſuppoſe."

To

To this queſtion the ward left Mrs. Allen to reply, who anſwered, "He did;" and Miſs Capel recollecting he did too, ſhe endeavoured to ſtifle her tears, as from what had paſſed between them in the abſence of the guardian, ſhould he diſcover that her eyes had been ſurcharged with tears, it might lead his hopes to a ſuppoſition, that they all flowed on his account, though whoever is acquainted with the various events which agitated her boſom, ſo ſuſceptible (which he was totally unacquainted with) muſt acknowledge that, however ſome may be attributed to him) yet the greater part fell for her father and ſiſters.

CHAP. XXXIV.

AT the appointed hour Mr. Hamilton added a moment's gleam of cheerfulneſs by his appearance, though on his face Mr. Allen ſoon ſaw impreſſed diſappointment and chagrin, while Miſs Capel, endeavouring to hide the tumult of her own breaſt, forced a reluctant ſmile, and attempted an eaſe ſhe was far from feeling; they had let him know, that in Mr. Allen's peregrination of the morning he had not been ſatisfied, he expreſſed himſelf ſorry at their diſappointment, and in the contrariety of Miſs Capel's conduct, ſo different from her uſual behaviour,

viour, he began to think whether he had not found a blemiſh in her, and that ſhe might be a coquet, and openly triumph in his apparent unhappineſs, and unconquerable love for her.

Before Mr. Hamilton left them, he ſought an opportunity (which was forwarded by the Rector) to have a converſation with him, in which he related all that had paſſed between himſelf and Miſs Capel, and the ſtedfaſt manner in which ſhe prohibited his ever mentioning the ſubject of love more, and ſeemed ſo firm in her reſolves, as made him entertain ſmall hopes ſhould he perſevere; at the ſame time declaring, his heart and paſſions (in which he confeſſed himſelf very ſanguine) were ſo unalterably fixed on her, that he would never addreſs or ſpeak to any other woman but in common civility, and was going to atteſt the ſincerity of this aſſertion by the moſt ſolemn aſſeverations, had he not been checked by Mr. Allen, who obſerved that oaths were not always proofs of candour,

or overflowings of integrity, but frequently led to deceive and betray; not that he thought the imputation extended to him, yet he wiſhed, for his own ſake, he would check that impetuoſity of temper, which led more to involve him in error, than to accelerate any wiſh he might adopt, or fix his mind in ſucceeding in. On this rebuke the lover became more calm, and mentioned to the Rector his own obſervation on the behaviour of Miſs Capel; not (he ſaid) that he had any deſire to be made acquainted with circumſtances, in which ſhe had herſelf told him he would juſtify her conduct, did he know; but (continued he) to ſee her evidently eaſy and cheerful, when the event of your inquiries this morning were not ſatisfactory, is extraordinary! I cannot ſuppoſe a Lady, of her candour and ſenſibility, can (he did not dare to the Rector even to hint at a ſuppoſition of coquetry) delight in increaſing the torture and anxiety of a man, whoſe whole ſoul is devoted to her alone.

The

The Rector, on this ſuggeſtion, remained ſilent (not that he ſuſpected the inſinuation extended ſo far as it did) when Mr. Hamilton obſerved, that he did not ſeem to know how to account for a conduct which appeared variable: However, Sir (continued he) let me once more urge your friendſhip, to mention the anxiety of my ſituation, and if ſhe perſeveres ſtill in her notions of retirement, and the cottage; a reſidence which ſhe ſeems ſo much attached to, from ſome dogmatical precepts an old diſappointed father muſt have early inſtilled into her mind; why then I muſt acquieſce, and by company, and extending my travels, try to ſurmount my unfriendly deſtiny, which, I aſſure you (ſhould I ſucceed) will be a ſevere trial.

The guardian agreed with Mr. Hamilton, that diſappointment might probably have made Mr. Capel ſhun the world, but otherwiſe he was a Gentleman of ſtrict probity and honour, and poſſeſſed an extenſive underſtanding, as he judged by the judicious edu-

cation he had given his daughters, and to which it appeared he had entirely ſacrificed his time; but, at your requeſt, Sir, I will again enforce your arguments to my ward, and though on the repreſentation ſhe may be induced to increaſe, in a ſmall degree, her lenity, it yet remains entirely with yourſelf, by patience and perſeverence, to be ſucceſsful, for I know her mind ſo thoroughly, that it is not poſſible for her to diveſt her feelings from thoſe object that at preſent wholly engroſs them.

The lover now took his leave, and returned to his apartments, in the vicinity of the Court, while the Rector again joining the Ladies, (Miſs Capel unſuſpicious of what had paſſed between them) immediately urged Mr. Allen to forward ſome mode to get at the knowledge of thoſe circumſtances which he had related; that Mr. Langdale is one of the Gentlemen cannot be doubted (ſaid ſhe;) but who is the other Engliſh Gentleman that attends

tends on Emily we can have no knowledge? It muſt be an acquaintance which has been engaged ſince they have been here.

Mr. Allen noticed, that the laſt obſervation muſt be true, as there was none other they had any knowledge of while in England, tho' Mrs. Allen remarked, that there was a poſſibility for them to have made an additional acquaintance on the road before they embarked on their voyage, who might be eaſily induced to accompany them. Theſe inveſtigations, Miſs Capel ſaid, could come to no certainty whatever, till they themſelves were found, and then aſked the Rector what he thought the moſt prudent method to purſue? who gave it, by ſaying, "that he would adviſe the ſending a perſon on whom they could rely (ſuch, for inſtance, ſaid he, as my linguiſt) and let him go to the Villa of the Marchioneſs, and if he cannot gain admittance, or an audience, to be provided with a letter from Miſs Capel to them, ſaying where

ſhe was, and what had brought her to Madrid.

"It will be very extraordinary, indeed (ſaid the Rector) if a bribe to a ſervant will not procure the one, though it might not be poſſible to effect the other."

Miſs Capel agreeing with this propoſal, and further obſerving, that as their letters ſeemed to intimate a wiſh to return to the cottage, when they found her ſo near them, it would give a confidence to their propoſals, and they might acquaint the Marchioneſs with their intention, who, though ſupported by the authority of a huſband, would not dare then to hold them by a power, which ſhe never had a right to uſurp by any act of her father.

The interpreter was then commiſſioned with a good character from the *maitre de hotel* for his integrity, who ſaid he would be bound in a bond of ten thouſand pounds for his

his fidelity; and Miſs Capel having wrote a letter, in which ſhe laments their long abſence, and how much ſhe wiſhed to ſee them again, he was to ſet out the following morning early on horſeback (or rather on a mule, they being much more in uſe in Spain than horſes) and this point being ſatisfactorily ſettled, the ward, from inward and real ſelf-approbation on both occaſions, as well that of having a proſpect (though remote) of regaining her ſiſters, as the approbatory violence ſhe had done her own inclinations, in with-holding her affections from ſo amiable a man as Mr Hamilton, made her, without any diſguiſe, appear much more cheerful and calm than ſhe had for ſome time been; but the guardian miſtaking the cauſe, and being moreover ſatisfied in his own mind of her attachment to Mr. Hamilton, which in unguarded moments always appeared, thought her apparent gaiety aroſe from the full aſſurance ſhe now had of his love, which was more forcibly held to conviction from himſelf, than what had been related from him,

and therefore, after they had ſettled the journey to the neighbourhood of Siglona, and were ſitting together (Mrs. Allen being withdrawn, as ſhe always made it a part of her duty to ſee that the beds, with the reſt of the apparatus requiſite for the comforts of night, were properly prepared) he, without any heſitation, began to renew the ſubject to her, as if Mr. Hamilton had not acquainted him with the reſult of his conference, and ſaid, that he was rejoiced to ſee her ſo cheerful, attributing it to two cauſes.

Miſs Capel, not ſuſpecting that he would venture again, by the moſt diſtant hints, to touch on a ſubject he had been ſo ſtrictly prohibited from renewing, anſwered, "that if there was a poſſibility of her enjoying any degree of ſatisfaction till ſhe had her ſiſters again with her, it was now, in the proſpect of effecting that event, though in fact ſhe miſplaced her preſent tranquillity, for the events promiſed were, in appearance, as far, if not farther, diſtant than ever, for their intelligence

intelligence had brought the ſtratagems of two young lovers to oppoſe, with the atractive influence of two beautiful young Ladies, which it is natural to ſuppoſe the youthful warmth of love would not be brought eaſily to relinquiſh, excluſive of the continued machinations of Madame, who would, for her own reputation, attempt every thing poſſible to prevent a meeting between them.

Mr. Allen to this replied, "that he was glad ſhe had brought her mind to be reconciled to trivial incidents, and not to yield ſubmiſſively, and without due inveſtigation to every vexatious occurrence, which would keep her mind in continual alarm, and make the remainder of her life always unhappy; at leaſt, Miſs Capel (ſaid the Rector) however you may ſtill wiſh for the quiet of the cottage, you will allow, that the ſmall knowledge you have now acquired of the world, will teach you to ſubmit, with patience and reſignation, to evils which, in the courſe of life,

life, you muſt have to encounter, even there: But (continued he) I do not myſelf, in this inſtance, ſee any cauſe for your preſent ſerenity, for though we know where they are, we do not, nor are we certain, we can accompliſh our intention; and I therefore look upon it, that we are, as we were at firſt ſtill in purſuit only. Now I attribute this temporary cheerfulneſs to another cauſe.

"To what, Sir!" ſaid Miſs Capel, haſtily, while her face was ſuffuſed with a conſcious bluſh.

"Will you forgive me, if I give my opinion?" returned the guardian.

"I know what you would anſwer," ſaid the ward. "You would again mention Mr. Hamilton (and her eyes gliſtened:) But why will you urge a ſubject which is ſo painful to me to be preſt upon? Don't, Sir, let me learn that, in your thus pleading for him, I find

find you more Mr. Hamilton's friend than mine; for I never will, I have told you ſo before, and I have told Mr. Hamilton ſo too, I never will ſuffer *myſelf* any ways to interfere with the duty I owe to Emily and Mary Capel, the daughters of their father and mine."

"And is that your determined reſolution? (ſaid the Rector, as much awed by her manner as Mr. Hamilton was:) And do you authorize me to give him the final anſwer; for, if it is final, he will immediately extend his tour; and I have nothing more to ſay than that I am very ſorry for it, as a ſincere friend to both. Why, my dear Miſs Capel, becauſe you have been deprived of ſome ſatisfaction, on which you had placed the baſis of your future happineſs, is that a reaſon good, that you are in proſpect to relinquiſh all the reſt; but I will ſay no more, only am I to give him this determination, as a final anſwer?"

"Yes,

"Yes, Sir (she replied:) I know my own sentiments, and I am resolved by them."

On this she hastily left the room; but soon returned with Mrs. Allen, when the Rector saw the sudden retirement was, to prevent his witnessing a tender and temporary suffusion she could not restrain.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXV.

IN the morning the linguiſt ſat out for the Villa of the Marchioneſs, and was expected to return in the evening. Mr. Hamilton came as uſual to pay his morning viſit, and to know his fate from the information of the Rector, while Miſs Capel continued her equanimity, was cheerful as the preceding day, received him with her accuſtomed manners, which at all times were graceful and eaſy; ſhe was even cordially familiar with him, as with a friend of long ſtanding, and when he took his leave, allowed him to kiſs her hand (which was very beautiful, and

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at this time decorated with a mourning ring her father always wore for the late Counteſs her mother; but as he, when he retired, had ſtudiouſly taken care that nothing ſhould remain to intimate who they were, but the intelligence of Madame La Fey and Auguſtin, whom he was obliged to confide in, he therefore had this ring made, with the initials of her maiden name, adding the proper dates, ſo that it remained equally as unintelligible as all the reſt) and bid him good morning with great calmneſs, though, from what Mr. Allen had told her the preceding evening, ſhe did not know that ſhe ſhould ever ſee him again.

Mr. Allen followed Mr. Hamilton out of the room, when he related to the impatient lover what had paſſed between him and Miſs Capel, which almoſt drove him to deſpair, as he declared, that every time that he converſed with her, he had more cauſe for admiration, and increaſed his paſſion: Mr. Allen, however, adviſed him to wait the iſſue of

of their preſent buſineſs, which he told him muſt ſoon come to ſome determination, and if he did not chuſe to viſit them, he would let him know by a note occaſionally how they ſucceeded, and whether they were likely to return to England, which he was ſure Miſs Capel would do, the firſt moment that was favourable.

Theſe conceſſions, on the part of the Rector, in ſome meaſure molified the turbulency of the lover's paſſions, and he determined, if poſſible, to abide by his advice; and as he was engaged to go to Court in the evening with Lord W——, the Ambaſſador, Mr. Allen recommended it to him to go, and laughingly bid him try if, in that aſſemblage of brilliancy and beauty, he could not ſelect a more kind, though he was ſure he would not meet with ſo amiable and lovely a woman as Miſs Capel; but to this the lover replied, that it was impoſſible, as his heart was ſo truly her's, neither place or time would be ever capable to eradicate her image from his breaſt,

breaſt, or even in thought, to be ſupplanted there.

When the evening arrived, every minute was winged with impatience by Miſs Capel, though ſhe received every check from her guardian, as well as cautions, not to depend upon the ſucceſs of their meaſures, leſt they ſhould be diſappointed. For my part (ſaid he) I have not ſubjected my mind to one thought about the event: I only wait for the arrival of it, let it be what it will. You have fortitude on *ſome* occaſions, Miſs Capel, (ſaid the guardian, ſignificantly) why not in all?

"You, Sir, are not ſo intereſted," ſaid the ward, "as I am."

"Yes, I am," he returned, "equally in both caſes; for have you not given me the power of a guardian? Is not your fortune, and yourſelf, under my protection?"

"I

"I wiſh my ſiſters were ſo too," ſaid the ward.

"I ſhould be glad they were," ſaid the Rector, "and then I ſhould be equally anxious for the future happineſs of you all."

Miſs Capel fully underſtood his meaning, though ſhe only acknowledged it, by thanking him for his kind partiality to her and them, and exclaiming, with great energy, "What, Sir, ſhould I have done without your friendſhip and Mrs. Allen's?"

At length the meſſenger arrived, but his journey had only tended to involve them in more perplexity, and Miſs Capel's increaſing anxiety, he came into the room with the letter ſuſpended in his hand, and the information he gained was, that the Marchioneſs had, the preceding evening, with her Lord, taken the young Ladies father into the country to another ſeat of his, about twenty miles farther diſtant from Siglona; that he could gain no intelligence

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at the houſe, for he thought, when he found the family were gone, he might venture to call, and appearing as a Spaniard, aſked for a ſervant, by the name of Lopez, and when he found he was not there, inquired whether he was gone with them, but no ſuch perſon lived in the family, nor could he get a ſatisfactory anſwer; but ſtopping to bait the mule at an inn, and to take ſome refreſhment himſelf, it happened that, in the courſe of converſation, the innkeeper's daughter (whom he afterwards found had a lover in the family) told him, that the Marchioneſs and her Lord had been alarmed two nights before with the information of a Duenna, who ſhe kept to watch the movements of Donna-Emila and Maria; that two Engliſh young Gentlemen had followed them from Madrid, and had tried to get admittance to the Ladies, but were prevented by her vigilance; that they, by bribes, had attempted to get letters conveyed, whether that had ſucceeded or not, ſhe could not tell; the whole matter was, they were carried away, and nobody would have

have known where to, or for what, had not Sagoanza (the lover) told her ſo himſelf. I then thought (ſaid the interpreter) it would not be proper for me to follow them without your order, Sir, and therefore returned with ſpeed to Madrid.

Mr. Allen, as well as Miſs Capel, could not but commend the man's prudence, notwithſtanding they wiſhed, in this inſtance, he had tranſgreſſed.

"What is to be done now," ſaid Miſs Capel, in a tranſport of paſſion and diſappointment, "with all our care and vigilance; we ſhall not be able to recover them, or if we do, perhaps to wretchedneſs and reflection."

"Come, come, my dear," ſaid the Rector, "don't give way to deſpondency, we are ſtill where we were, and they are only removed a little way farther off; that is the light in which I view the preſent matter that has oppreſſed

preſſed you at the inſtant (without reflection) to draw a concluſion in the moſt horrid form, which to ſuffer my mind to dwell on for a moment, would hazard all my acquired philoſophy, and upbraid that Providence which, for wiſe reaſons, neither permits us to peep (beyond the bounds preſcribed) into futurity, or to dictate where we cannot judge; it may all ſtill—turn out for the beſt, I dare ſay you was going to add, ſaid Mrs. Allen.

The linguiſt was diſmiſſed, after telling him to hold himſelf in readineſs for another journey, in caſe they ſhould wiſh to employ him; and, as the night was advancing faſt, Mr. Allen would not ſuffer Miſs Capel to let her mind dwell on a ſubject ſo painful, leſt it ſhould diſturb her repoſe when retired, and therefore deferred all converſation till the next day.

"Do you think I ſhall ſleep when I do retire?" ſaid the ward.

"You

"You poſſibly may (returned the guardian) ſleep is a friend to the oppreſſed."

"Young ſays it ſeldom lights on the eyelids of ſorrow," anſwered Miſs Capel.

"Young, my dear, made the obſervation when advanced in life; but youth demands the ſalubrious emollient of ſleep, and cannot exiſt without it."

The determinations of the ſucceeding morning left no alternative, but that Farania, the interpreter, ſhould ſtill follow them, and continue to do ſo, till he ſucceeded, even if he was to be gone ſeveral days, and Miſs Capel wrote another letter more expreſſive of her ſtill ſincere regard for them, and her wiſhes that they would return to her, diſregarding the loſs of their fortunes (if they were loſt) as ſhe had ſufficient for them all. With this mandate he was to remount his mule the following morning early, and purſuing his way to the intelligencer, or inn-

keeper's daughter, learn from her his road to this other enchanted Caſtle that ſecreted the fugitives, which Mr. Allen, to divert the mind of Miſs Capel ſaid, he ſuppoſed he would eaſily be directed to, as no doubt it was now ſtorming by the two ſturdy redoubtable knights.

Towards the evening, however, of this day, a cloud of a different and very deſcriptive dye pervaded the features of Miſs Capel without aſſigning any cauſe, though the Rector read it by the effect, for Mr. Hamilton never appeared, or even ſent to inquire after their health, an omiſſion which had not been enforced before.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVI.

THE next morning the linguiſt again ſallied out in queſt of adventures, and the morning brought a *note* from the lover to Mr. Allen, lamenting the cruelty of the miſtreſs of his fate, and the reſtraint preſcribed, being impoſſible for a young man of his ſanguine diſpoſition to abide by, he had determined to withdraw himſelf from the vicinity where ſhe reſided, as he found, by the trial of a day's abſence, in which he ſuffered ſo much anxiety of mind, that a perſeverence might endanger his health, he had therefore

been prevailed on by two Gentlemen, fellow Collegians, to go a tour with them to *Toledo* and *Valadovid*, and as they purpoſed to ſet out the next morning, hoped Mr. Allen had ſufficient influence to permit him to take, perhaps, a laſting adieu.

This note was brought by his valet into the dining-room where they were ſitting, with his maſter's compliments. The note being long, he heſitated in reading it to himſelf, and by a ſide glance on his ward, who ſat on his left hand, he plainly ſaw depicted on her expreſſive features the ſymbol of curioſity, aided by anxiety and ſuſpicion. After he had read it, he folded it up with great compoſure, and addreſſing Miſs Capel, ſaid, "Mr. Hamilton is going to leave us." Her countenance immediately became much agitated, when Mrs. Allen kindly (though not intentionally) relieved her, by aſking, "if he was going to return to England?"

Mr.

Mr. Allen anſwered, "No; he was (with ſome friends) going to take a ſhort tour, and has requeſted permiſſion to take leave of *us*, (addreſſing Miſs Capel) if agreeable."

"To be ſure, Sir," returned the ward, but in much confuſion. "Well, James (to the ſervant) then give our compliments in return to your maſter, and tell him we ſhall be glad to ſee him."

The lover arrived to tea, and though the natural cheerfulneſs of his diſpoſition could not entirely be reſtrained by his diſappointment, yet it appeared evident his internal feelings were ſenſibly affected, while Miſs Capel, conſcious that ſhe could not now exert thoſe cheerful ſpirits ſhe had before ſo ſucceſsfully called to her aſſiſtance, made her own anxiety the more conſpicuous, by apologizing for it, in addreſſing Mr. Hamilton, and ſaying, — "We have been again unfortunate in our buſineſs at Madrid, Sir." He expreſſed himſelf very ſorry for it, while the Rector was twice

caught rubbing his hands, as having ſufficiently read the conflicting paſſion of each ſo truly, as to judge the ſeparation was equally trying to both.

After ſitting above three hours with them Mr. Hamilton took his leave, obſerving, that he ſuppoſed they would be returned to England before he was at Madrid again, as he might be abſent a month or more. He then wiſhed Mr. and Mrs. Allen health, and addreſſing the laſt, hoped ſhe would have a happy ſight of her ſon at Chriſtmas, as ſhe had not omitted to acquaint him with her future proſpects in that ſatisfactory meeting: He then addreſſed Miſs Capel, with a ſolemn aſſurance of the ſincerity of his attachment, only lamented his own want of merit, and that every wiſh of his heart ſhould follow in prayers for her future happineſs; when kiſſing her hand fervently, he left the apartment in a hurry and confuſion; but Mr. Allen pretending to light him down ſtairs, he conjured him, if they ſhould be gone for England before he returned,

turned, to leave his addreſs, and any or every occurrence he was at liberty to divulge reſpecting the lovely inflexible: Mr. Allen gave him aſſurances that he would, and added the old lenative, patience, to his conſideration; but he was at this moment ſo devoid of all prudent reſolves, that how could he think of patience, when he had juſt parted for ever (he ſaid) from all that could make reſignation a virtue. Mr. Allen told him they were not parted for ever, and they would, he was ſure, meet on better terms.

"If we do (ſaid Mr. Hamilton) I have intereſt enough, and will get you made a Biſhop," trying to force a cheerfulneſs he did not poſſeſs. But Mr. Allen declaring he had rather enjoy his own private parſonage, than the richeſt benefice in the three kingdoms, Mr. Hamilton ſaid he would come and ſee him there.

The Rector returned, "He was ſure he ſhould ſee him there," and with theſe different

aſſurances on both ſides they ſhook hands and parted.

On Mr. Allen's return to the dining-room he was informed by his wife, that Miſs Capel immediately withdrew after they quitted the room by another door, which led into their bedchambers, forbidding her to follow her: She returned to them, however, in about half an hour in ſeeming compoſure, which was apparent ſhe had retired to regain. She even talked of Mr. Hamilton as a friend, and hoped he would have fine weather for his tour, and aſked Mr. Allen if he knew who his companions were? But this was all a forced converſation, to prevent the guardian from entering on a more intereſting one, and therefore, when ſupper was over, ſhe pleaded a head-ach and anxiety on her ſiſter's account, as an excuſe for retiring early to reſt, (tho' ſhe had agreed it was no abſolvent) and left them before the accuſtomed hour, which would have given Mr. Allen a very ſenſible concern, had he not been perfect maſter of the cauſe,

cauſe, and in which reflection he found a pleaſure in her ſenſibility, as he now was certain the uneaſineſs ſhe at preſent felt aroſe more from the apprehenſion ſhe had of Mr. Hamilton's growing indifference, than what ſhe endured for her ſiſters, though that was very forcible.

The next morning, which brought the guardian and ward together, did, to the penetrating eyes of the firſt diſcover that ſleep had not been aided by youth, and that it had in Miſs Capel fled the pillow of anxiety. Her eyes, which were wont to ſhed a benign and kindly influence on all, ſeemed now to be wholly engroſſed by ſelf-reflection. She eat no breakfaſt, ſpoke not, but when obliged to anſwer (except once, by remarking that the morning was fine;) even the idea of the return of Farania was held at a diſtance, and on Mr. Allen's ſaying, "he ſhould be in expectation of ſeeing him in the evening," her reply was, "it poſſibly might be longer firſt," and thus the emollient of hope

ſeemed to ſink under the preſſure of deſpair. The abſence of Mrs. Allen, who ſhe uſually attended after breakfaſt, was unnoticed, and ſhe would not have obſerved her being gone, had not the Rector arouſed her from her reverie, by ſaying, "My dear ward, I am ſorry to ſee you ſo very thoughtful, ſo very abſent."

"Have I not enough to make me ſo, Sir?" ſhe anſwered, and was again ſilent.

"I would lay you a wager," ſaid the Rector, drawing his chair towards her.

"A wager of what?" returned Miſs Capel.

"Will you forgive me if I tell you," ſaid the guardian.

But her reply was only "Yes."

"Why then," ſaid the Rector in return, "I would lay a wager you think Mr. Hamil-

ton

ton might not have been ſo haſty in his tour." This (after ſo *grave* and ſo *ſtrict* a prohibition, never to mention that ſubject more) was a bold ſtroke, and only warranted by his office of guardian, and he waited with fear a reply; but the paſſion of reſentment was abſorbed by more tender ſentiments, and with a half ſmile, expreſſive of uneaſineſs and diſappointment, ſhe replied, "Why, I think, he was rather premature in his haſte."

"Then why, my dear (ſaid the guardian) did you not flatter him with more of your confidence?"

"I would do as I have done, Sir (ſaid ſhe) if it was to do again."

"Well," ſaid the Rector, "I think you do not act right, and yet I can never think Miſs Capel can act wrong."

"I thank you, Sir," ſhe returned, "for your ſanction."

CHAP. XXXVII.

IN the evening, as the Rector foretold, (though when he ſaid ſo he did not expect him) Fanaria returned, and entering the dining-room without any ceremony, and with a face full of intelligence and ſurpriſe, that Miſs Capel, the moment ſhe ſaw him, exclaimed, "Good Heaven! what is now the matter?"

"O Donna! O, my Lady! (ſaid Fanaria) they are gone; they have left the houſe of the Marchioneſs!"

"Be

"Be calm, my dear" ſaid Mr. Allen to Miſs Capel; "don't be ſo hurried; let Fanaria tell his ſtory correctly. Well, Sir, (addreſſing the interpreter) the young Ladies you ſay are gone; now tell us how, and by what means." The linguiſt bowing ſubmiſſively, thus related the tale:

"That in obedience to your Honor's order, I proceeded on my way to the inn at Siglona, where the daughter of my hoſt, by the information of the butler to the Marquis, directed me to the other Villa; but when I arrived there I found the houſe in the greateſt confuſion; but having received orders from your reverend Honor, to get the letters conveyed to them at all rates, I went plump to the houſe at once, for I thought by doing ſo I might chance to ſee one of them, and then, if I could not deliver, I could tell them where I came from. My caution, however, was in vain, for when I aſked if the Marchioneſs was at home (which I did for a blind, your Honor) and if Miſs Capels were there,

there, the ſervants ſaid their Lady was at home, but for the young Ladies they were run away with two Engliſh Gentlemen, and then aſked me who I was come from? I thought, your Honor, I might as well ſay, ſo I ſaid I was come from your Honor and their ſiſter, as Donna Capel is, bowing to Miſs Capel."

"Well, go on," ſaid Mr. Allen.

"Yes, your Honor. From her ſiſter? (ſaid the ſervant) Well, I will let my Lady know, and away ſhe went; but preſently returned, deſiring I would go with her to her Lady, and I following according to order, was conducted through ſuch fine rooms, till I came to that where the Marchioneſs was ſitting, who, as ſoon as ſhe ſaw me, ſaid, in Engliſh, "So, friend, you are come from Miſs Capels ſiſter, what is ſhe at Madrid?" I told her, Signora, you was; ſhe is come after them I ſuppoſe; but ſhe might have ſaved herſelf the trouble, for they are gone from me, and you may tell Lady ——, and then

then ſhe ſtopped herſelf, and ſaid, Miſs Capel, I mean; you may tell her; but, no, I will write, and then ſhe took a pen and ink, and wrote."

"Where is the letter?" ſaid Miſs Capel, impatiently.

"Here, here, Signora (ſaid the linguiſt) in my pocket," he fumbling, while ſhe anxiouſly held out her hand to receive it. At laſt it was found, and he being diſmiſſed, was opened by the trembling hands of Miſs Capel, who immediately knew the hand-writing of Madame La Fey, now the Marchioneſs de Silona.

The purport of this letter was to inform Miſs Capel, that two Engliſh young Gentle-Gentlemen (whoſe names ſhe thought proper to conceal) had come and demanded Miſs Emily and Mary Capel of her, declaring ſhe had no right to detain them (and which they both corroborated. The Gentlemen declared their

their intentions were the moſt honourable, and that they ſhould convey them in ſafety to the cottage, and to their ſiſter. On theſe aſſurances her Lord had inſiſted on her letting them go, to which ſhe had, though with reluctance, aſſented, as ſhe ſtill loved them with parental affection, but it was not in her power to with hold them againſt two ſuch lovers and irreſiſtible men. In reſpect to their fortune, they were in poſſeſſion of a pacquet, ſealed up with her own arms, as Marchioneſs de Silona, which would amply recompenſe them for what they had loſt by her; but ſhe had privately had it placed in their box unknown to them, leaſt curioſity ſhould have induced them to open it before they arrived at the cottage, wiſhing them every happineſs, and telling Miſs Capel ſhe was ſure they would be there before her.

Signs herſelf,

ELEONORA MARCHIONESS DE SILONA."

When

When the letter was read, Mr. Allen ſaid, "I thought there was ſome ſecret, which ſhe would take a favourable opportunity to reveal, which, I dare ſay, is in that carefully ſealed pacquet."

"Never mind the pacquet (returned the ward) what are we to do?"

"Why, return to England as faſt as we can (ſaid Mrs. Allen) and meet them there."

"I think that muſt be the way," replied the Rector.

"Then we will ſet out to-morrow morning, Miſs Capel anſwered, "But if this ſhould be all a deception of Madame, to get us again out of the kingdom, and when I arrive at the cottage, full of the expected happineſs in meeting them again there, what would ſuch a diſappointment coſt me?"

"Many

"Many unneceſſary tears (ſaid the Rector.) Am I yet to teach you to bear, with fortitude, every event, which you cannot prevent or eſcape? Now I think we ſhall meet them there, or perhaps before; but yet we muſt not be in ſuch haſte to ſet out as to-morrow morning, for I muſt ſettle our debts, which we have contracted at this capital, or at leaſt liquidate them. You would not, I dare ſay, by your hurry, wiſh to leave a diſreputable character behind you, even for the honor of your own country?"

Miſs Capel acquieſced, but the Rector had a motive prior to theſe, for he wanted Mr. Hamilton to have intimation of their deſign, and had no other way than by carrying a letter to his apartments, to be forwarded to him, which he determined to do himſelf: However, Miſs Capel would admit of no delay, that would interfere with their ſetting out in the afternoon of the following day. She knew Mr. Allen could ſoon ſatisfy every

every demand that might be made on him; but knowing her ſentiments, it is probable, that had ſhe even a ſurmiſe of her guardian's motive for ſtaying, ſhe might herſelf have been more tardy, and procraſtinate their journey, even by raiſing unneceſſary ſcruples in the liquidation, or ſome other cauſe, equally as fallacious and improbable.

The Rector's intention, however was fruſtrated, for early in the morning, while they were at breakfaſt, a courier arrived with a letter, dated from Toledo, from Mr. Hamilton, to inform him, that an expreſs had been ſent after him from Madrid, which brought a pacquet from England, to inform him, that his father had had a fit of apoplexy, which, though he had regained his ſenſes, the phyſicians gave no hopes of his recovery, and the earneſt deſire he had expreſſed to ſee and be reconciled to his ſon, and to acknowledge his own injuſtice in oppoſition to his opinion, had obliged him to take the neareſt road

to

to the ſea, and to embark for his native land, otherwiſe he ſhould have made Madrid in his way, and would, could he have brought his own mind to coincide with Mr. Allen's, in thinking he ſhould have been an acceptable viſitor to Miſs Capel: And now, my good friend, he adds, ſhould this unfortunate event take place (in which I ſhall lament the loſs of a parent with true filial duty) I ſhall no longer need diſguiſe: I will then develope a myſtery, and claim my full title to an Earldom, and by theſe acquiſitions try to eſtabliſh an intereſt in the favor of your ward: But, alas! how futile is the conjecture. Has ſhe not already told me, that titles and honors can have no influence on her. Did I love her the leſs for the declaration? No, infinitely more; and, if ſhe would deign to admit me an inhabitant of the cottage ſhe ſo much pants to regain, I would relinquiſh them all, as inſignificant in competition with that rural, contented, happy, ſecluſion; yet, my friend, the ambition of a

young

young man is pardonable. Would ſhe but participate with me in the enjoyment of them, how proud, ſuperlatively proud, ſhould I be to introduce ſuch a ſecluded flower to the world, blooming in all the ſweets of innocence and beauty! Though happy as I muſt be in ſuch a poſſeſſion, yet keep me in ignorance, that my increaſed honors had any influence towards her partial acceptance of my heart, for I love Miſs Capel ſolely, unknowing who ſhe is, and Miſs Capel muſt give herſelf unreſervedly to me: But why do I diſtract myſelf with conjectures? Were ſhe to retract her declaration, could I love her leſs? But ſhe will not; they were the ſentiments of her heart, guided by purity and virtue. She will never recede from what ſhe has ſaid, and I muſt, on every reflection, love her the more for it. He then giving Mr. Allen his addreſs in Cavendiſh-Square, ſubſcribes himſelf his ſincere, though unfortunate, friend.

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The ward's eyes were fully bent on her guardian while he was peruſing this letter, for we will believe that Mr. Hamilton did not, at this minute, engroſs her mind ſo fully, as to ſuppoſe it came from him, for he had no ſooner finiſhed the reading of it than ſhe addreſſed him :

"Well, Sir, any more diſappointments? Perhaps it is to tell you they have changed their intention, or that their lovers have changed theirs, which I ſuppoſe is the ſame."

"No, no," returned the Rector, "it is no ſuch thing; this letter is from Mr. Hamilton; his father is dying, moſt probably dead by this time, and he apologizing for not calling on us, as his haſte obliged him to admit of no delay, do you chuſe, Miſs Capel, to read the letter?" But this ſhe declined, though when Mrs. Allen and ſhe were alone, ſhe obſerved it was a long letter to contain only complimentary excuſes, eſpecially

ally to a perſon in ſuch aſſured haſte as he muſt, or ought to be in; but there are ſome people who love to write long letters, even on trifles, and avowedly declare they delight to amuſe their minds with inſignificant obſervations. My father always told me, conciſe writing was the moſt expreſſive.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

THE Rector having now very little to engage him at Madrid, and the linguiſt giving them an aſſurance, that the Ladies had left the Marchioneſs's houſe, with the Gentlemen in queſtion, he was ſoon prevailed on to forward their journey in the afternoon, and the hoſt being conſulted, as to the neareſt port, he adviſed them to make directly for Cadiz, not only as the directeſt road, but where there were always ſhips ready to ſail for any kingdom in Europe; and when they told him that Don Alvaro de Novo adviſed their continuing their voyage

voyage to Valencia as moſt convenient, he ſhook his head, and ſaid, "Had he done right, he would have landed you at Cadiz."

"It was as well," replied Miſs Capel.

"I think better," returned the guardian.

In the afternoon they ſet out poſt, and reſting one night on the road, reached the deſtined port late the following evening, when Mr. Allen going directly to the Quay (for the Ladies had long ſurmounted the fear of being left alone) he there found a fleet of merchantmen, bound to Ireland and England, under convoy of two men of war (a diſpute having broke out with France) and ready to ſail. He immediately made an agreement with the Captain of one of them (a Mr. Davis) for their paſſage, who had no other paſſengers, and did it purpoſely to oblige them, he ſaid, eſpecially the young Lady, when he ſaw Miſs Capel: He, however, exacted a ſufficient premium for his civility,

and as it was hazardous to remain on ſhore, (leſt they ſhould ſail, on the ſignal from the men of war) they were hurried on board that night, when it was extremely dark, and the only inſtance, wherein Miſs Capel had expreſſed any fear, for the ſurge of the ſea ran ſo high, and the continual noiſe and ſwearing of ſailors in a fleet, made the contraſt rather alarming, as well as appalling, to the ſerenity of the cottage, and more than any ſhe had experienced ſince ſhe left it.

The expected ſignal was given at two o'clock in the morning, when they ſet ſail with a fair wind on their return to England. The next day the weather proved equally propitious, and they doubled Cape Vincent in the evening; but towards noon, on the following day, the clouds began to gather as if portending much wind, and the ſailors were ordered to reef and backſtay certain ropes, which indicated the apprehenſions of the Captain, though quite unintelligible to his paſſengers: However, in the evening the

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ſky was ſo over-caſt, as to raiſe doubts in the moſt ignorant; and Mrs. Allen obſerved, that ſhe thought it looked as if it would be a ſtorm. In the cloſe of the evening, however, all doubts were loſt in certainty; black and heavy clouds had collected; the ſhips drove before the wind, which whiſtled in the air, while the ſurge of each alternate wave ſwelled with increaſing force as the day declined, and darkneſs ſucceeded; the vivid lightning leſſened in its diſtance, and the hollow rumbling thunder told the approaching conteſt in ſurly reiterated ſounds; in ſuch a conflict, the fleet was ſoon ſeparated, and the conteſts of men were forgotten in thoſe of nature, all were ſtudious for ſelf-preſervation. The daughter of the Earl of Marr, though not foſtered and nurtured in the ſoft lap of grandeur and affluence, had yet, in the ſequeſtration of the cottage, experienced the benignity of tenderneſs, and all the partiality of parental indulgence: We may then, under ſuch circumſtances of difficulty and danger, a ſituation no way bearing the leaſt

ſimilarity to any of thoſe ſhe termed misfortunes, and the prior ones, where the dawn and the evening roſe and ſet, in all the luxury of eaſe, content and happineſs, to yield to the timidity natural to her ſex and to nature, and to have a fear for her own perſonal ſafety, as for thoſe, who ſhe lamented herſelf, as the cauſe of expoſing to ſuch danger: Mr. Allen, however, preſerved his uſual equanimity. He checked her for ſuffering the tranſports of her grief and fear to lead her to tax Providence in his diſpenſations, to remember there were hundreds, as well as themſelves, in the ſame calamitous ſituation; that there were dangers by land as well as by ſea, and as they had eſcaped the one, he doubted not, in due time, they ſhould eſcape the other, if not we muſt be reſigned, while Mrs. Allen ſat in one corner of the cabin, lamenting her blaſted happineſs in being deprived of ſeeing her ſon Charles at Chriſtmas, and though their ſituation would not permit her to make the obſervation, yet it is poſſible (however perilous the time) the old adage

of

of her good man was, at this moment, fully confuted in her imagination, for this could not be for the beſt ſhe thought.

Now, from their ſilence, they were alarmed with an additional noiſe over their heads, the ſails ſhivered, the ſailors were heard to vociferate "yoa, hoa," the haſty tread, as they traverſed the deck backwards and forwards, beſpoke ſome ſudden alteration, and as we are apt to anticipate evils, the Ladies in their minds thought the laſt hour of exiſtence was near, and if we ſuppoſe the Rector cheriſhed the ſame idea, perhaps we may not be in the wrong: He, however, did not at this moment deliver his opinion, till the Captain came haſtily into the cabin, and told them to be thankful, for they were at the mouth of the Tagus, and ſhould, he hoped, ſoon heave his anchor before Liſbon.

This information gave the Rector an opportunity to expatiate on his firſt diſcourſe, not to yield to evils till they became inevita-

ble, held a long harangue on the virtue of fortitude and perſeverence, and brought Miſs Capel's paſt conduct in juſtification of his aſſertion: "For (ſaid the guardian) had you given way to the influence of your paſſions, on the ſeveral-diſappointments you have encountered, we ſhould not now have been here." Mrs. Allen thought, notwithſtanding their deliverance, it had been as well if they had not; but her terrors not being in any degree ſubſided, ſhe could not rally to enforce her argument.

At laſt they heard the windlaſs run rapidly down, and being informed the ſhip was at anchor in the port, though the river was exceedingly rough, and the ſtorm continued with unabating fury, and they could not land, without firſt truſting to the ſafety of a boat, the danger they had ſo recently experienced made them fearleſs of any other, and they begged to be put on ſhore, though the Captain repreſented the inconvenience they muſt endure, by being made very wet by the torrent

torrent of rain which continued ſtill to fall, and that they were in perfect ſafety in the ſhip; but they could not be diverted from their purpoſe; therefore, at four o'clock in the morning, dark, wind blowing, the rain falling profuſely, thunder rattling over their heads, while the lightning was the only light they had to guide them; the boat was hoiſted from the deck, when our guardian, with his ward and wife, were let down into her, with the Captain, when a few ſtrokes of the oars brought them to land, and they were conducted by their guide (Mr. Davis) to a large coffee-houſe on the Quay, dropping with wet, fatigued with watching, and terrified from recollection of their recent danger.

CHAP. XXXIX.

WHEN they arrived at this comfortable dwelling, they were conducted to a large room, at each end of which was a good fire, and round it were boxes with ſeats, and a table in the middle of each, while the wainſcot, which run chair high, were from thence ſcreened from each other by green curtains, which drew on braſs rods. This comfortable aſylum began to give a relaxation to their former fears, notwithſtanding the ſtorm ſtill continued to rage, and the Captain, prudent and ſeaſonably, bringing them ſome hot negus, with brandy in it, they found

found it ſo ſalutary a ſpecific, that their ſpirits revived, and they began to raiſe their eyes to ſee what was doing about them, as their condition and fears had with-held them from obſerving, that a number of people from the fleet had owed their ſafety to the ſame cauſe as themſelves, and were continually coming in from the different veſſels, and were all equally frightened, wet, and dejected.

They had not ſat many minutes, obſerving the alternate changes from the ſucceſſion of different objects, when a perſon, in the adjoining box, called to a waiter, who was croſſing the room, telling him to bring ſome negus very hot. Miſs Capel, as well as the Rector, were ſtruck with the ſound of the voice, and from the ſame ſenſation remained ſilent, when her ſenſes were more alarmed (as the ſilence gave room for her attention to awaken) and again ſhe heard the ſame voice, in a whiſper, ſay, "My lovely Mary, my angel, open your eyes, I am with you, we are all ſafe!" A deep ſigh from the af-

frighted fair one, ſtopped his proceeding, and then he continued, "Why theſe tears? Yet cry, if it will give you eaſe, or leſſen your terror."

Miſs Capel inſtantly ſtarted from her ſeat, and turning to the box from whence the voice iſſued, ſaw Captain Langdale ſitting, his hat lying on the table before him, and his arm ſupporting her ſiſter Mary, who was clinging round his neck, her hands claſped in each other, and her fine flaxen hair hanging in profuſion over her ſhoulders, dripping with wet, the drops continually falling from them on her arm and her garments.

Mr. Allen followed Miſs Capel the moment ſhe roſe (from the ſame impulſe) when Mr. Langdale, finding his retreat invaded, raiſed his eyes, which were dwelling on the tender object of all his wiſhes, and endeavouring to recall her to life by every endearing expreſſion, and ſeeing Mr. Allen, exclaimed,

claimed, "Ah, Doctor! are you here? I am glad to ſee you."

"I am glad to hear you ſay ſo, Sir" ſaid Mr. Allen.

"Indeed, Sir," returned Mr. Langdale, "I have no reaſon to ſay otherwiſe."

While theſe alternate interrogatories were paſſing, Miſs Capel had made towards her ſiſter, and thinking her dying, with hands claſped, ſhe called on her, "Mary, my ſiſter, ſpeak to me!"

Mr. Langdale added, "My love, here is your ſiſter; here is Miſs Capel." This intelligence gave life to exhauſted nature when ſhe opened her eyes, and ſeeing Miſs Capel, ſhe articulated, "Ho - - -w came you he - - -re?" A ſigh in the laſt word being ſubſtituted for the heſitation, "O (ſaid Miſs Capel taking her hand) now I know it is my dear Mary; but where is, O where is

Emily?" This queſtion recalled the memory of Mary, and ſhe added, "Oh where is ſhe, indeed?" Mr. Langdale reminded her, that ſhe knew ſhe was as ſafe on ſhore as themſelves, and would be there preſently.

As he ſaid, ſo it proved, for Miſs Emily was now conducted in, equally frightened, wet and diſordered; but who can, with juſtice, depict the countenance of Mr. Allen, oppreſſed with *ſhame*, *ingratitude* and *injuſtice?* when in her protector he beheld his eldeſt ſon, Charles Allen. "My ſon!" ſaid he, diſregarding every other object.

"My father!" returned the ſon, when he approached, with an obeiſance amounting almoſt to a bended knee, while Mrs. Allen, tranſported with a joy that ſuperſeded every other conſideration, and totally annihilated every paſt terror, ran to him, and folding him to her maternal boſom at the moment, thought that his fault, if it amounted to a crime, was entirely done away by his

preſence before her; calling him her deareſt boy, and wiſhing to know by what ſtrange accident he came there, and the ſon equally curious to be informed of the occaſion, which could have brought his father and mother, in any manner, from ſo retired, as well as remote, a ſituation as the parſonage, much more that they ſhould be in Portugal; but theſe inveſtigations were prorogued: Miſs Emily, on ſeeing her ſiſter, had quitted hold of her lover's arm, and had flew to her, while Mary, having hold of one of her hands, ſhe ſeized the other, and both expreſſing the joy they felt on ſeeing her, and appearing in all the innocence and beauty they poſſeſſed when they left the cottage, the conflicting agitations of her mind were ſo overpowered, that nature could not ſuſtain the ſenſation, and ſhe ſunk back againſt the wainſcot ſenſeleſs and immovable.

Mr. Allen no ſooner ſaw the condition his ward was reduced to, than he forgot his ſon, and every other conſideration, to aſſiſt her: He removed

removed her into more air, and had a chair placed in the front of the box, to which they removed her; and while Mr. Allen went to procure ſome reviving cordial, Captain Langdale, at the deſire of Miſs Mary, ſupported her ſinking frame on his own ſhoulder.

They were thus ſitting when Mr. Hamilton haſtily entered the room, followed by his valet, having juſt landed from another of the fleet, and as they had unpin'd Miſs Capel's neck (not regarding propriety) in order to give her more free reſpiration, ſhe thus ſat, Captain Langdale ſupporting her, her beautifully tranſparent boſom expoſed, and herſelf apparently devoid of life, while the beauteous twins ſo exactly reſembling each other, where hanging over their lifeleſs ſiſter, their hair ſtill ſtreaming over their ſhoulders, lamenting that ſhe was no ſooner given to them again, than that they were in danger of loſing her for ever.

Mr.

Mr. Hamilton no ſooner beheld her thus ſituated, than the cauſe, as well as the effect, accounted to him how ſhe came there; but ſeeing Mr. Langdale in apparent ſolicitude, and his arms claſped, as he thought, with affection round her, it was too much for the natural violence of his temper to command, and he exclaimed, "What do I ſee, Miſs Capel in diſtreſs?" When addreſſing Mr. Langdale, "And who, Sir, are you? I claim the office you have preſumptuouſly aſſumed of protecting that Lady, alive or dead. Captain Langdale was a Gentleman of ſpirit, and had it been Miſs Mary Capel, he would have diſputed the pre-eminence with all the world: But hearing the Gentleman calling on her by name, and having no pretence to diſpute the claim, he roſe, and diſengaging himſelf from her, bowed to Mr. Hamilton, telling him at the ſame time, "he did not doubt his title," when he took his ſeat, and claſping her to him with energy, conjured her, for his ſake, to return to life and to him.

Mr.

Mr. Allen now returned with his hands full of ſpecifics; but the moſt ſalutary was at hand already, though we may eaſily account (from ſympathy) for the different cauſes were each ſufficient to occaſion ſuch a tumult in her breaſt: Mr. Hamilton's voice might, perhaps, nevertheleſs, be diſtinguiſhable in the multitude. Certain it is, that at his requeſt, that ſhe would return to life, and to him, ſhe did, and opening her eyes once more, to the extreme joy of her ſiſters, the firſt ſenſible moment, told her ſhe was in the arms of Mr. Hamilton: But when farther recollection, aided with one of the Rector's cordials, diſplayed to her her expoſed boſom, her natural modeſty ſuffuſed itſelf, and with extreme confuſion ſhe begged to retire with her ſiſters and Mrs. Allen, which being complied with, Mr. Allen and the other Gentlemen were left together; but Mr. Hamilton catching at the words, my ſiſters, aſked the Rector if thoſe beautiful creatures bore too the name of Capel?

He

He was anſwered, "Yes," and added, in a whiſper, "they are the objects we have been in purſuit of, when, turning to Mr. Langdale and his ſon, this Gentleman had got poſſeſſion of the one, and I hope this other, whom I call my ſon, can juſtify himſelf, in being the protector of the other.

This candid declaration of the Rector's cauſed Mr. Hamilton, with a look expreſſive of ſomething more than reſentment, to ſay, "He hoped ſo too."

On this inſinuation, Mr. Langdale began to feel himſelf hurt, and therefore above making a reply; but the ſon, who knew his duty, prompted him to ſatisfy his father, was going to relate the whole, and premiſed at firſt, that he knew his father would not diſapprove his conduct, and the Rector had juſt begun to rub his hands together, expreſſive of ſatisfaction at the declaration, when the Ladies again appeared, and Mrs. Allen was deſired to aſk the guardian if he could not get them a private room? which being obtained, the Gentlemen with the Ladies retired to it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XL.

MRS. Allen, with her charges, had been conducted to an upper room, where they were no ſooner alone than they flew into each others arms, Miſs Capel expreſſing, by tears and embraces, her joy that ſhe could then fold them to her boſom, while they began to lament their defection from ſuch a ſiſter, calling on their Father for pardon in this their tranſgreſſion from his precepts, when Miſs Capel (while a ſmile gliſtened thro' her tears) aſked them if they ſhould *now* be content to live throughout life in the cottage? They, however, to this queſtion both heſitated, and Miſs

Miſs Mary, whoſe vivacity was, in ſome meaſure, returned, ſaid, "Aye, Gertrude, let me aſk you the ſame, will you?"

Theſe alternate effuſions of love would have continued, had not the ſtorm yet raged ſo violently, while the thunder crackled over the houſe in ſuch horrid peels, and the lightning darted through the crevices of the ſhutters ſo quick and rapid, as awakened all their fears again, and Mrs. Allen adviſed the returning to the Gentlemen, for ſhe remarked, "that, though they could not ſtill the raging of the element, they would, by converſation, divert the mind from dwelling on it." To this they all readily aſſented, which is eaſily accounted for, and when they were in poſſeſſion of the private apartment, Capt. Allen expreſſed his ſurpriſe that Auguſtin had not yet appeared, when Miſs Emily told her ſiſter that Auguſtin was already tired of travelling, and was in the ſame ſhip with them, where they met him, and his intention was to have viſited them at the cottage.

He

" He will be rejoiced to ſee you," added Emily to her ſiſter, " Miſs Capel."

As the morning was now far advanced, the Rector propoſed that the Ladies ſhould try to get ſome reſt, as they muſt want it much; but this was oppoſed with many arguments; the firſt, that they could not ſleep, the ſecond, that if they could, the ſtorm was ſo violent it would not let them; but the third and laſt was the moſt powerful, they none of them wiſhed to ſeparate ſo ſoon after a meeting, on all ſides ſo unexpected and unforeſeen, Miſs Capel therefore propoſed to have a good breakfaſt, with plenty of chocolate, coffee, tea, roles, toaſts and butter, and biſcuits.

The overture was ſeconded by Mr. Hamilton, who ſat at her ſide, and unanimouſly by the reſt of the company, the beverage was therefore ordered, and prepared with the utmoſt diſpatch. While they were partaking of this ſalutary nouriſhment, the waiter addreſſed

dreſſed Miſs Mary, telling her "the black Gentleman, who had come in the ſhip with them, ſent his reſpectful duty, and begged the honor of aſking them how they did after their fatigue and fright?"

Mr. Hamilton attended to the queſtion, when Miſs Mary, with the indifference ſhe had acquired by living with the Marchioneſs in high life, anſwered, "Well, tell him to come in," while Miſs Capel wondering at the manner of her ſiſter's expreſſion (for ſhe had not herſelf yet acquired the faſhionable nonchalance) ſoftened the meſſage, by adding, "We ſhall be very glad to ſee him."

Auguſtin, however, did not know Miſs Capel was of the party, therefore, when he entered the room, and ſaw her ſeated at the head of the table, in all the natural eaſe and dignity of her birth, Mr. Hamilton leaning over the back of her chair (returning to England too, with the determined reſolution of informing them of their birth, having, after due

due inveſtigation, interpreted the injunction of ſecreſy, mentioned in their father's *will* to relate to their preſent poſſeſſions) he could not reſtrain his firſt tranſport on ſeeing the eldeſt, and firſt friend and companion of his noble maſter, the ſolace and darling of his ſolitude, before him without emotion, when he exclaimed, "What, Lady Gertrude!" and advancing towards her, ſhe held out her hand, at the ſame time ſaying, "Auguſtin, how do you do? I am very glad to ſee you (not regarding his addreſs) when he bowed ſubmiſſively, and replied, "He hoped her Ladyſhip was in health, and he was glad to find Lady Emily and Lady Mary had ſo well recovered their fright."

Mr. Hamilton, as well as the reſt, ſat in ſilent aſtoniſhment at the addreſs, while the Ladies were equally ſurpriſed; but Mr. Allen, who had long laboured at the ſecret, which he ſuppoſed the Marchioneſs's pacquet would diſcover, now began to ſee the information was anticipated by the premature

wiſh,

wiſh, or rather ſurpriſed intelligence, of Auguſtin, he was therefore the only perſon preſent who had any clue to guide his interrogatories by, he therefore, in reply to Auguſtin, aſked him, "What name, or title, he choſe to addreſs Miſs Capel and her ſiſters by?"

"Sir (replied Auguſtin) I addreſs them by their birth-right. That young Lady (pointing to Miſs Capel) is Lady Gertrude Dacre. Theſe, looking at the lovely twins (who ſat in the utmoſt confuſion and trepidation, Mr. Allen by the ſide of Miſs Mary, and Captain Langdale by that of Miſs Emily) are her ſiſters (I was in the houſe of their father when they were born) and all the daughters of the late Anthony Dacre, Earl of Marr, Baron Somme. I need ſay no more at preſent, as Engliſhmen muſt be acquainted with his unmerited diſgraces; but they have been long cancelled by a revocation of the attainder, and the King ordered the accumulated fortune ſhould be reſerved for theſe children, if

ever they ſhould be found; and I now have extreme ſatisfaction, ariſing from gratitude to my late dear Lord, and true affection for his noble offspring, to preſent them to that world, and that affluence, they have been ſo long deprived of." He then bowed to the Ladies and the amazed auditors: But Mr. Hamilton, on his ſilence, exclaimed, "Gracious Powers! do you ſay true?"

When Auguſtin, rouſed at an imputation of ſuſpicion, replied, in paſſion, "True! who are you that dare diſpute it?"

"Dare diſpute it!" repeated Mr. Hamilton: "No, I wiſh it true. Cannot you read a feature in my face to tell you who I am?"

Auguſtin then looking ſubmiſſively at the queſtion, ſaid, "I ſhould think you like Lord George Dacre, their Ladyſhip's uncle."

"By Heaven (returned Mr. Hamilton) I am his ſon, and by your declaration, now Earl of

of Marr, for I am returning to England on the death of my father, having received a letter juſt as I took ſhipping at Cadiz (addreſſing Mr. Allen) informing me he was dead."

A diſcovery of ſuch magnitude and important conſequences was received by all the auditors as the different ſenſations operated on their minds. The Ladies (though moſt intereſted) betrayed an indifference which amounted almoſt to diſappointment, and upon Auguſtin ceaſing to ſpeak, a ſilence enſued of ſome minutes, as if they were trying to collect (or recollect) themſelves. Miſs Mary (now Lady Mary) was, from her natural vivacity, likely to be the firſt who would break the ſilence, and after raiſing a laugh, ſhe ſaid, "Well, Mr. Ha- - -milton, you are then our couſin, however."

He then roſe, and taking her hand, replied, "That he hoped ſhe would acknowledge him as ſuch."

"Moſt cordially and he - - -artily," ſhe returned, "and ſo will Emily."

Emily then gave him her hand, as a token of approbation of her ſiſter's aſſertion, and as he ſtood thus between them, he claſped his arms round each of their waiſts, and preſſing them with affectionate tenderneſs to his boſom, declared they ſhould ever find in him the father, and every other friend they had been deprived of.

Mr. Hamilton was not only in his perſon and manners inſinuating, but intereſting, that you was prejudiced in his favor the moment he was in your preſence, how then muſt his addreſs to the orphan daughters of his deceaſed uncle ſenſibly affect all who heard him, excluſive of the attitudes of each at the time? But who can do juſtice in depicting the lovely twins, as they then ſtood folded to his breaſt, while tears, they had never experienced before, rolled down their cheeks, and they looked up in his face, as if to enforce

force his attention, and to tell him he only could be ſuch?

However, the pathetic manner of his expreſſion, and their ſenſibility, was caught by the whole company; and though the lovers did not attempt to diſpute his authority, nor was Miſs Capel (Lady Gertrude) at all included, even in look (however ſhe might be in thought) in the benediction; yet it affected her ſo powerfully, that, as the ſun had riſen, and diſperſed the ſtorm ſo far, that the thunder and lightning had ceaſed, ſhe propoſed to retire, and try by ſleep to compoſe their agitated ſenſes, which had, in a few hours, undergone ſuch a variety of revolutions, uſhered into them by a hurricane the moſt tremendous, aided (as if not ſufficient of itſelf) by peels of thunder, which rent the dwelling they inhabited, and the piercing lightning left not the ſmalleſt crevice unmindful of its power and their perception, while the rain fell in ſuch torrents, ſhewing it could

check the malignity of the one, at the ſame time it lengthened the terror of the other!

On the propoſition, the Ladies retired, and left the Gentlemen to the full enjoyment of their own ſpeculations, and which can alone juſtify their different conducts. The Rector was now the only one of the party who found himſelf diſtreſſed; it is true, Charles Allen had ſaid, "he could extenuate himſelf in the opinion of his father, and he did not believe his ſon would tell him a falſhood (for he had not ſo taught him:") But the affair now bore a different aſpect; he had apparently, in the firſt inſtance, decoyed a beautiful young Lady of fortune away with him, as, if the Marchioneſs had detained the property, he then had acted equally diſhonourable in inticing ſuch innocence to ſhare with him an inadequate proviſion, even in the compariſon of the ſuppoſed penury of the cottage: But now an explanation of ſuch conſequence had accidentally been diſcovered, his crime was heightened, though the tranſgreſſion was not increaſed,

increaſed, and to have ſtolen the daughter of an Earl, a Lady with a large fortune too, was too much for the rectitude of the guardian's principles to ſupport, and he therefore took his ſon to a private walk, in order to give him an opportunity to make good his own aſſertion, or to juſtify himſelf, while Mr. Langdale, knowing his own conduct to admit of no imputation ſince he had been informed by his artleſs Mary that they were independent, and having large property of his own, on Mr. Hamilton's expreſſing to Auguſtin his wiſh to be farther informed reſpecting his long ſilence, as well as other incidents relative to his deceaſed Lord, and the ſo fortunately found family, claimed a right on his avowed love of Lady Mary, and her acceptance of him, to be equally entitled to as being a party, intereſted almoſt nearly as himſelf: Mr. Hamilton, far from objecting, allowed his plea to be juſt, and they obtaining a private apartment, Auguſtin related all that has already been told, and then added the inducement which firſt made him con-

ceal, and now to divulge the illuſtrious pedigree of the lovely, amiable, and truly beautiful inhabitants of that ſweet ſecluſion, the cottage.

"I can now only add," continued Auguſtin, "that my noble maſter, having fulfilled his promiſe at his death, by making me and Madame La Fey independent of the world, by a gift of five thouſand pounds each, a ſum greatly ſuperior to our deſerts, and a temptation which conduced to ſhew, that the greateſt reward for fidelity is often the means to provoke to tranſgreſs the injunction it was beſtowed to ſecure; for on finding my late Lord had left behind him ſuch an immenſe fortune, Madame inſtilled into my mind an idea the ſum in compariſon was not equal to our deſerts, and had almoſt prevailed on me to be an acceſſary, in what ſhe, I find, has affected by herſelf, which was to decoy the young Ladies, with their property, away from the inſpection of their ſiſter, Lady Gertrude (whoſe penetration Ma-

dame

dame always feared), and if in the event we ſhould have treſpaſſed by leſſening their property, it would always be in our power to have made them amends, by diſcovering who they were, for we had got information both of my Lord's attainder, and the reverſing of it, by means of news-papers, which I obtained clandeſtinely, for on our firſt leaving the reſidence of my late Lord, to ſeek in ſolitude peace and ſafety, it was his firſt prohibition, on pain of his eternal diſpleaſure, that we never ſuffered any news-paper, or other periodical publication, to be brought into the houſe, and indeed the remote ſituation he had choſen excluded all probability of there ever being any ſuch brought there but by connivance, and thus he himſelf died totally unacquainted, even in a ſurmiſe that ever his eſtates were confiſcated.

"But I beg your Lordſhip's pardon," continued Auguſtin, "for being ſo prolix, (bowing to Mr. Hamilton) I will haſten to a concluſion: On weighing the propoſal of

Madame's in my mind, I thought it would be an act of the greateſt ingratitude to our benefactor, who had been ſo liberal to us, and therefore I declined it, thinking too that they were ſecure, as I could not ſuppoſe ſhe could undertake ſuch an enterprize alone, and finding, after the death of my Lord, I had little to employ me in ſuch a ſolitude, and being independent, I recollected how much I had ſeen when I travelled as a ſervant with him, and therefore I reſolved to divert my mind to take the ſame tour again; but age, Sir, requires eaſe: I find too my reſearches are unſatisfied; fatigue don't gain compenſation in curioſity. I wiſhed ſoon to return to England, and in that ſervice, my Lord's family muſt be the firſt object of my attention; in thinking of them I reviewed his will, and his bounty, and though (at firſt to favor our inclinations) we concluded the prohibition of ſecreſy ſo firmly maintained, extended to what he had enjoined us to obſerve when firſt we retired with him; yet now, that I begin to get tired of ſociety,

from

from nature, not from compulſion, I remembered that, at the time we made the oath, it was only to extend to his life, and that the ſecreſy implied by the will, amounted ſolely to the deſire, that the large property contained in the houſe ſhould not be made a ſubject of converſation, the ignorance of their birth, making the young Ladies ſee it in no other light. To conclude, Gentlemen, I was poſting to England, ſatisfied in my mind with my own intention of making them acquainted with the noble inheritance they were intitled to poſſeſs, beſide what they now had, expecting fully to find them, together with Madame La Fey, at the cottage.

Judge then my aſtoniſhment, when I ſaw thoſe beautiful young Ladies with no protectors but two young Gentlemen, to whoſe perſons I was entirely a ſtranger, though I think, Sir, I have ſome ſlight knowledge of you (to Mr. Langdale) and in a foreign land: They, however, ſoon informed me of

Madame's conduct; but as I was unacquainted with the Gentlemen, I deferred telling them of their rank, reſolving only to follow them ſtill as a ſervant and protector, till they arrived again at the cottage, to which they told me they were haſtening.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLI.

AUGUSTIN having finiſhed his relation, he bowed to the Gentlemen, when Mr. Hamilton aſked, "What, was Lord Marr never out of the kingdom?"

"Never, my Lord (ſaid Auguſtin.) He left his town reſidence once for a fortnight, when he ſaid he was going to his Yorkſhire eſtate, though I own I had ſome ſuſpicions, as he never before travelled without me. In a month after that he brought us to the place where his daughters now reſide, and where he lived fourteen years, totally ſecluded from

the world, and detaching himſelf from every thing but his children, and though he could not expect it (nay, he ſaid he did not) yet he recommended to them, as moſt eligible for their future peace, ſtill to continue to follow his example, in giving preference to ſolitude and retirement before the deception and fallacy of the world."

Lord Marr and Mr. Langdale could do no otherwiſe than commend the final integrity of Auguſtin, though in the relation it evidently appeared he owed his perſeverence more to the want of youth and ability of bodily ſtrength, than either the gratitude, the duty, or the affection, he now ſo ſtrongly pleaded, as the inducement he wiſhed had always guided him; it was, however, with the lovers ſufficient, that he had related (or rather diſcovered) ſo important a ſecret, whether the late Earl ſtill intended it ſhould remain ſuch or not; they therefore gave him all the plaudits which would have been his recompenſe, had his merit commenced as it concluded.

concluded. Lord Marr went ſtill farther for as he was, from the delicacy of his own ſituation, obliged to leave them the firſt opportunity, he begged Auguſtin to again renew his office (though he had commenced Gentleman) and follow them home, offering too his houſe as a reſidence for him during his life. Mr. Langdale was equally profuſe in his offers of friendſhip to the Maley, and this exchange of confidence induced him to tell Mr. Hamilton (Lord Marr) from what cauſe he came to be one of the champions, who had taken up arms in defence of injured innocence and beauty, an act of chivalry, which, in the modern acceptation of the word, was become obſolete.

He therefore, after relating the trivial accident when he firſt met them at Brittleſworth, and progreſſively on to the unfortunately letter arriving at Mr. Allen's, which told them and him of the duplicity of Madame La Fey; I then (continued Mr. Langdale) ſaw from my obſervations of her when

ſhe

ſhe had them under her care in England, what ſmall confidence ſhe would deſerve in a foreign land; I therefore with haſte followed them to Madrid, and by viſiting the Engliſh who reſided in that capital, I was enabled ſoon to find them, as the fame of their beauty, and the elegant ſtile in which they lived, made them the ſubject of general converſation.

The Marquis, a needy Nobleman, ſoon ingratiated himſelf into the favor of the rich widow, and as her buſineſs required diſpatch, ſhe was eaſily prevailed on to conſent to a ſpeedy marriage, and it was at an entertainment, in conſequence of their nuptials, that I got admittance into their company; but it is impoſſible to deſcribe the looks of all, when they diſcovered me in the group of viſitants. The Marchioneſs (as ſhe then was) recognized my features; the moment ſhe met my eyes (though ſhe had never ſeen me but that once at Brittleſworth) her countenance was fluſhed with confuſion, and her

eyes

eyes ſpoke both ſuſpicion and guilt; but though I regarded her ſufficiently, to obſerve the working of her conſcience, I was too intent in ſearching for the fugitives to reſt longer with her, and turning a way, for a view more intereſting, I then encountered them ſitting arm in arm together, and both intently gazing on me; my lovely Mary's eyes apparently gliſtening with a joy, I could not help flattering myſelf proceeded from the rencounter, I immediately approached them, when ſhe ſaid, "What, Mr. Langdale! h - - -ow came you at Madrid?" and I knew her by the heſitation. I would have immediately, on this queſtion, have informed her of the motive which had brought me there; but the Marquis came and took them away, a conduct ſo evidently ordered by his Lady, as made me reſolve to attempt every means to obtain an interview in private with them.

When they went from me, he conducted them to the Marchioneſs, who was ſeated at the upper end of a magnificent apartment, to receive

receive the congratulations of all who approached her. By her manner it was evident ſhe ordered them to leave the company, which they obeyed with cheerfulneſs, while a buz of admiration went from one to the other, and at laſt reached my ears; for on their abſenſe I was ſo loſt to myſelf, that I ſhould not have known where I was, had I not been accoſted with a familiar preſſure on my ſhoulder, and a half whiſper, exclaiming, "Langdale, how the devil came you in this aſſembly?" when turning, I diſcovered an old fellow collegian in the perſon of Colonel Broomfield, whoſe continued ill health in the Eaſt-Indies had made me conclude he was dead: He, however, informed me that he was now on his travels from thence, on that account, and receiving much benefit from change of climates, having been at Madrid a month: But (continued the Colonel) have you ſeen thoſe two meteors, thoſe bright morning ſtars, the lovely Engliſh twins, wards to the Marchioneſs Sinola, who have juſt left the company, and are the attractions which

have

have drawn ſo many people together here: I, however, affected not to know them, when we were joined by a very fine young fellow, in the regimentals of an Engliſh officer, who being introduced to me by the Colonel, as a Captain Allen of his corps, I ſoon recognized the ſon of the worthy and truly exemplary man, the Rector, who you now know as the avowed guardian of Miſs Capel, or I ſhould ſay, Lady Gertrude Dacre, I was exceeding glad to ſee him, from the reſpect and friendſhip I bear his father; but the Colonel prevented effuſions of reciprocal pleaſure, by adding, "If you wiſh to know more of thoſe enchanting girls, and the power of their machinations, aſk Charles Allen; he will give you a deſcriptive account as will not fail to attract your notice; but take care of your heart, or you will be in the ſame ſituation as himſelf. For me I muſt bid you good night, it being late, and I am ſtill an invalid; and but for my ſeeing you, I ſhould have been at home now." So ſaying he took his leave, and left us together.

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The firſt ardor of my tranſport, in beholding the lovely woman who engroſſed every faculty of my heart, received no check from this information; nor was my mind totally free from that moſt rancorous, as well as ſordid paſſion of jealouſy, in hearing that Captain Allen was equally a lover as well as myſelf, and we generally, in ſuch inſtances, conclude their opinions are as our own, and I therefore made no doubt but Mary was the object of his affection, as ſhe was of mine, and in this ſurmiſe, with a reſerved manner, without mentioning either his connexions or his family, never inquiring after the health either of his father or his mother: I ſaid, "I ſuppoſe, Sir, theſe Ladies, which Colonel Broomfield tells me draws moſt of the company to the Marchioneſs, includes you in that number."

"Indeed (he returned) Mr. Langdale, it is my only inducement."

"Perhaps,

"Perhaps (I replied) you are ſucceſsful in your purſuit."

"I am (he haſtily ſaid) and was you to ſee the lovely enchantreſs, you would not condemn my choice; it is true, ſhe has no fortune, and, as I am informed, they are related to the Marchioneſs, who having herſelf an affluent property, has choſen to protect them. To be ſure my father, as other fathers do, would condemn my conduct, in involving ſuch innocence and beauty to the narrow pittance of the pay of a lieutenant of foot; but Colonel Broomfield has aſſured me he will get me the command of a company on our return to England, and if ſhe will be content to ſhare that with me, who ought to object to it?"

"They are remarkably alike; are they not?" ſaid I.

"Exactly (he returned.) There is a ſmall defect in one of them, which an acquaintance only

only diſtinguiſhes them, and that is a heſitation in the ſpeech of Miſs Mary Capel; but my Emily is all perfection."

"When I found (continued Mr. Langdale) I had no rival to fear, in the formidable appearance of Captain Allen, I began, in turn, to be more communicative, and in fact told all I knew, and what had brought me to Madrid. He then informed me, that he was firſt introduced into their company at the Ambaſſador's, where he had viſited with the Colonel, and to which place they were brought by the Marquis (the Marchioneſs being indiſpoſed.) Being an Engliſhman, he had converſed with them both (and by that knew the difference;) but ſince, when the Marchioneſs heard of the interview, ſhe had never ſuffered them out of her ſight, and he ſhould have been driven to abſolute deſpair, had he not found means (by bribery) to get letters conveyed to her, and ſhe, in return, had not only placed a confidence in him, by anſwering his letters, but

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to expreſs a wiſh to return to England to a ſiſter ſhe had reſiding there, and that it was on ſight of him the Marchioneſs made them withdraw from the company juſt now."

"No," ſaid I, "it was on ſight of me, not of you, and as we are both adventurers in the ſame cauſe, we will mutually enter into an aſſociation to reſcue them from impending danger, and as I am certain they had property, if not a large fortune, we will readily reſign that for the accompliſhment of the other."

In conſequence of this affiance, a letter was conveyed to Miſs Mary Capel, by the Mercury of the paſſionate lover, Captain Allen, who declared, in the moſt vehement manner, accompanied with oaths and proteſtations, which, though thoſe of a lover (and on that account not always believed, or at leaſt diſpenſed with) was ſpoken with the utmoſt ſincerity; that he would forfeit his life to releaſe them both from the chicanery and deception

of

of that machiavel the Marchioneſs; for who knows (added the Captain) that if ſhe has embezzled their fortunes, ſhe may connive at any attempt which might be made by a clandeſtine marriage, to prevent any of their friends the power of either ſerving them, or recovering their property, a thought which, in the bare retroſpection, almoſt raiſes my faculties into madneſs.

"You will (I replied) by the ſuggeſtion only, render us both incapable of a reſolution ſo ſalutary, if we indulge it, I will therefore write the letter."

The contents of this important billetdoux informed Miſs Mary of the anxiety and concern her ſiſter was ſuffering on their account, in conſequence of which (by the date of their letter) he had immediately come to Madrid to reſcue them from the power of the Marchioneſs, if they were willing to return to England and leave her; that his love of her was unalterably the ſame, and if

ſhe would condeſcend to favour him with her ſmiles, it was in his power to make her the poſſeſſor of ten thouſand a year, himſelf the only incumbrance, unſolicitous whether her fortune was loſt or ſecure.

An anſwer was immediately conveyed to me in return, expreſſive of both their wiſhes to be again reſtored to the only friend and relation they knew, in their ſiſter, acknowledging a full confidence in my integrity and honor; but a doubt whether they would ſucceed, as, ſince the Marchioneſs ſaw me at the Ridotta, they had hardly been ſuffered out of her ſight.

This letter confirmed us in our reſolutions, at the ſame time that it animated me with additional vigour, in the aſſurance that it intimated my lovely Mary bore no ſuſpicion of my honor in her gentle boſom, notwithſtanding I had once violated all right to integrity, even in a ſuppoſition to injure her; but her breaſt, at that time, was too immaculate

culate to admit ſuch a gueſt as a betrayer; nor did ſhe know there was ſuch beings in exiſtence, and a miſerable man ſhould I have been, if in a future retroſpection the idea muſt have ariſen, that I firſt taught her to feel ſenſibly the power of duplicity.

The aſſurance, however, which this letter gave me, that we ſhould be welcome viſitors to the Miſs Capels, if repugnant to the Marchioneſs, induced us to put our intention to the proof, which was to go and demand them of her, and avowing that ſhe had no power to detain them, as Miſs Emily had informed Captain Allen her guardianſhip was her own adoption, and not that of her father: In this reſolve we proceeded together to his houſe the following day; but was informed they were all from home, which was indeed the truth. We then waited (but with impatience) till the next day, when, on our again demanding an interview with the Miſs Capels, we were told that the family were removed out of town for ſome time; but could not

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get intelligence where, till information arrived, by means of their contrivance and our truſty friend, to tell us they were on their journey to a Villa of the Marquis's, near Sagovina. On this information we immediately took a carriage and followed them; but whether any other alarm had happened when we arrived there, we found they were on their route to a ſtill more remote diſtance, being twenty miles farther off, and at another ſeat.

Determined to overtake them at all events, we purſued with the utmoſt rapidity, and fortunately arrived there ſo ſoon afterwards, as not to allow them reflection ſufficient to ſuppoſe we could be ſo near, when we went to the houſe, and demanded an admittance to the Marquis, which was at firſt refuſed; but on intimating our intention of making the matter public, we gained an interview with him, and then inquiring for the young Ladies, and inſiſting on ſeeing them, they were introduced to us by the Marchio-

neſs, who led them in by each of their hands, fully confident in her own mind, that the aſcendency ſhe had over their affections would baffle all others; but happily they had tranſferred thoſe affections, and when ſhe told them (before us) that we were come to demand them of her, pleading ſhe had no right to detain them, not being a legal guardian, and aſking them, "if they were willing to leave her, and go with us?" her agitation and confuſion are not to be deſcribed, when they both unanimouſly anſwered together, "Yes, they were;" and Miſs Mary added, "that ſhe ſhould be ha - - -ppy to ſee her ſiſter Gertrude again."

"Well (ſaid ſhe, after a moment's heſitation) let it be ſo, *tant meaux*, I ſhall be releaſed of a charge; but (and her colour came in her cheeks from conſcience) remember, you have voluntarily left the protection of that woman who reared you from your infancy with the tenderneſs of a mother, and

continued

continued to do ſo ſince you have been at Madrid, as the Marquis knows." He bowed aſſent. "Theſe young Gentlemen are your elected guardians, I ſuppoſe."

I could not now help ſpeaking, and therefore anſwered her with (I am ſure) a ſtern countenance, by ſaying, "They had," and now we only waited for a refunding of what property ſhe might have of theirs, and we would leave her directly.

"Property! (ſaid ſhe) property! I don't know what you mean, Monſieur."

"My Lord Marquis, had I any property of Mademoiſelles Capels?"

The Marquis anſwered, "No;" when ſhe repeated, "*None, none,*" and leaving the room haſtily, quickly returned, ſaying, "Ladies, your cloaths will be ſoon packed up, and when you arrive at the cottage, in your

portmanteau you will find a *property* ſufficient."

Finding her ſo willing to part with her charge, we ſtaid till a female ſervant came to ſay the trunk was ready, when they both roſe on the firſt intimation, and courteſing to the Marquis and her, with an eaſe and gracefulneſs of manner (now to be accounted for) bid them farewell, while Miſs Emily immediately gave her hand to Captain Allen, as Miſs Mary did her's to me, and we handed them into the carriage, which waited at the door, when bowing in ſilence they pulled up the glaſs of the voiture (i.e. coach) depicted viſibly on both their countenances a reſentment, which had ſuperſeded every kind of attachment, or regard, they might have had for her, though they reſtrained their ſpeech from telling her ſhe had forty thouſand pounds, which ſhe could not tell how to call *property*, and which belonged to them.

In reſpect, however, to the conduct of the Marquis, I do think he was deceived, and was

was led to believe the fortune he obtained with Madame La Fey was her own, the young Ladies regard for her, and the urbanity, with the generosity and liberality of their natural tempers, not suffering them to inform him either of the deception or the fraud.

CHAP. XLII.

"IT is needleſs, however, to add more," ſaid Mr. Langdale, "as the events followed progreſſively, till we all met ſo unexpectedly here, were it not to obſerve, that we were ſtanding on the deck of the ſhip when you came on board the evening the fleet ſailed, and though it was almoſt dark, the aſſiſtance of the lights made us acquainted with your perſon, and we were near enough to hear you expreſs yourſelf impatiently, and on your ſervant's ſaying, "Take care, Sir," you replied, "Care! what care is neceſſary to preſerve a wretch like me!" And

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we ſaw Mr. and Mrs. Allen, with Miſs Capel, take ſhipping; but it was then both late and totally dark, except from the accidental light which glanced as they were conducted on board; yet it is extraordinary that ſuſpicion did not aid me, or the young Ladies, or that ſympathy ſhould not cauſe a ſon to recollect the perſon of a father, when the diſtance we were from them could not be more than two ſhips lengths at fartheſt: However, we were all to experience the ſame danger, to meet in a hurricane, and to enjoy the ſame fortunate recompenſe.

"Stop (ſaid Mr. Hamilton) do not call it a fortunate meeting for all; it may, perhaps, involve me in inevitable and laſting unhappineſs; and did I call myſelf a wretch? and ſo I am; this diſcovery, which eaſed me of an inſupportable burden on my mind, I had rather had fell on any individuals than Miſs Capel, though in her preſent uneaſineſs (which I now find was on account of her ſiſters) Lady Gertrude had ſuſpended my

hopes in the wiſh I ſanguinely promiſed myſelf, in calling that lovely and amiable woman mine; yet did I hope that time (when her mind was relieved) might have induced her to liſten to my addreſſes and my love; but now that hope is annihilated. Can ſhe look with an eye of love, or even favor, on the ſon of that man who contributed to the ruin and diſgrace of her father (the moſt worthy and beſt of men) to loſe himſelf ſo far, as forgetting all ties of blood to live in riot and luxury on the ſpoils thus unjuſtly obtained, and to trample on the laws of his country, and the credulity of his Monarch; nor ever ſought to find the aſylum of his injured brother, or the abode (for any thing he knew to the contrary) of penury and want of his unfortunate offspring."

Mr. Hamilton then put his hand to his forehead with extreme emotion, ſaying, at the ſame time, "Yet I ought not to expreſs myſelf as concerned they are ſo found; for who can grace the honors which attend them,

as

as theſe lovely twins, and their more lovely ſiſter, who were born to ornament titles, and adorn diſtinctions."

"Your Lordſhip ſpeaks juſtly," replied Mr. Langdale, and was proceeding, when Mr. Hamilton begged him to drop all honorary appellations both to him and them for the preſent. "For my part (he added) I would willingly relinquiſh them for ever, and the eſtate too, tho' ſo noble an inheritance, would the acquiſition inſure me the ſmiles of Miſs Capel, or that I could obtain a ſmall apartment, to ſee and converſe with her in that ſecluded cottage ſhe has ſo many years inhabited, the peace of which ſhe ſtill ſighs after, and ſeems unwilling to think any acquiſition would, or could, recompenſe her in quitting it."

The features, as well as the language, of Mr. Hamilton, were ſo expreſſive of deſpondency, that Mr. Langdale ſcarcely knew how to reply: He, however, obſerved, "that the

little knowledge he had of Miſs Capel, which was now in the chance meeting, and about an hour's converſation he had with her and the Rector at the Parſonage, convinced him that her cultivated education, as well as the expanded ideas he knew ſhe poſſeſſed, could never lead her to condemn the ſon for the tranſgreſſions of the father; beſides her love of that ſolitude ſhe had been nurtured in, would not be ſoon forgot, in the glare of pomp and equipage; he would therefore adviſe him not to anticipate evils which might never happen, and for his part many revolutions had occurred ſince his affections had been fixed ſo unalterably on his Mary; firſt from her own confeſſion (when he concluded they were, by the death of their father, left in indigence;) ſhe told him, they were not poor, but rich; when he followed them to Madrid, he found thoſe riches amounted to affluence, and while he was graſping at the loveliеſt prize, by the chicanery of a deſigning and artful woman, ſhe is again reduced to poverty; but fortune with her would never

never admit of competition, and while ſecure of her affection, I deſire nothing more."

Theſe interrogatories being finiſhed, the Gentlemen parted till ſuch time as they were informed the Ladies had again aſſembled for the purpoſe of a ſecond morning's meal. — Mr. Hamilton more compoſed, from the obſervations and advice of Mr. Langdale, than before, though in his reflection Mr. Langdale thought it were poſſible Miſs Capel might adopt the ſentiments he had ſuggeſted, for, notwithſtanding his knowledge of her was ſlight, yet his obſervation furniſhed him with ſufficient indications that ſhe poſſeſſed a pride, which would never ſuffer her to do wrong, and ſhe might, from the great affection ſhe bore to the memory of her deceaſed father, diſcard, with contempt from her, every one that could be any ways connected with an enemy, to a man ſo amiable and virtuous as ſhe held him to have been: But Mr. Langdale did not know what a fortunate man his friend was, and that he had ſuper-

ſeded every other affection already in the breaſt of that young Lady, who would never have been induced to think title or fortune either a bleſſing or an honor, but as he might adorn the one, or find enjoyment in the poſſeſſion of the other.

While theſe young Gentlemen unburthened their minds, in a confidence, which lovers always find peculiarly ſalutary, the Rector was ſtill in a tumult of apprehenſion and diſtruſt reſpecting his ſon's conduct, which uneaſineſs was greatly enlarged by the diſcovery of their births, and that Miſs Emily Capel was the daughter of an Earl. He had taken him from the company into a garden adjoining the houſe, the ſun having diſpelled thoſe clouds which hung loaded with ſulphurous and heavy particles, and given the morning a clear ſky, though the wind ſtill continued to blow with repelling guſts, the good man was ſo agitated in the fear of what his ſon would advance, as an extenuation of this ſo capital a crime in his eyes, that, though he haſtily

ſought

ſought the moment when he ſhould have him alone, its arrival had rendered him ſo unfit for converſation, that they traverſed the walk ſeveral times before either of them ſpoke.

The ſon, aſtoniſhed at his father's apparent perturbation, while the father conſtrued the ſilence of his ſon to a conſciouſneſs that he found himſelf unable to fulfil the declaration he had made, of giving him aſſured ſatisfaction in his conduct, at laſt the ſon ſaid, "I am extremely concerned, Sir, to ſee you ſo diſordered, it implies a doubt that you entertain ſomething diſadvantageous to my honor, as a ſoldier, or as a man."

"As a ſoldier," ſaid the Rector, "I do not, but as a man I may; for being ſuch, you are ſubject to the frailties annexed to your nature, as others are: Charles, remember that puniſhment and penitence tread cloſe on the heels of indiſcretion; to decoy ſuch a beautiful woman (alas! ſhe is a child) from her

her protectors, to follow a ſoldier's fortune, to expoſe her to the temptations of error, and then obliged to leave her to ſtruggle againſt the deluſion, to compel her not only to view the carnage and horrors of war, but to ſhare in the dangers, and at laſt, perhaps, cloſe the dying eyes of the only perſon ſhe had been taught to value life for. Beſides, to aggravate ills already ſo apparent, have you not ſtolen the daughter of an Earl, a Peer of the realm, a co-heireſs with her ſiſters to a large patrimony? (as Auguſtin ſays:) Thus violating the laws of your country, as well as forfeiting your honor, for which you have only to plead, that your paſſions were too violent for reſtraint; that you could not check the impulſes of nature, and that real love admits of no controul. Do you call that *love*, which expoſes the object to the difficulties I have deſcribed, which hazards the life, as well as the honor, of her moſt dear to you? Or do you flatter yourſelf with imagining the exchange of reciprocal affection

affection is ſufficient recompenſe, if ſhe ſhould encounter, and ſink under the burthen ?"

The worthy and good Rector, having had his mind wrought up to anticipate evils, which the twins might have encountered, in ſeeing a ſon whom he loved with the ſincereſt fatherly affection, and from whom he had reaſon to expect every good, a party in a cauſe, that had always appeared in a very unfavourable view, was led to adopt maxims which had no probable exiſtence, or ever poſſibly could happen, and while he re-capitulated dangers, he thought ſhe might be expoſed to by his raſhneſs, forgot to recollect that the ſame event, which made it known ſhe was an Earl's daughter, told him it was an expedient which rendered it impoſſible for her ever to hazard the other.

Charles, however, heard his father's admonitions with dutiful attention, and when he called on him to exculpate himſelf, obſerved, that his affections and integrity led him

him to imagine evils which could have no exiſtence; that at the time he firſt ſaw and became enamoured of Miſs Emily Capel, they were ſtrangers to each other, and he was introduced to the knowledge of both, at Lord W——, the Engliſh Ambaſſador's at Madrid; that, and being natives of England, a conference took place, which made him more her ſlave, and as Madame, or rather the Marchioneſs de ——, kept them cloſe confined, he had no other means to acquaint her with his paſſion but by letter, in which he ſucceeded, and in the candour of her innocence, ſhe related the whole tranſactions of her protector, with the ſuppoſition that their property was already out of their power to regain, lamenting that ſhe ſhould come to my arms a beggar, and a dependent, informing me, at the ſame time, that ſhe had a ſiſter, who ſhe knew would receive them both with tender affection. At this time I met Mr. Langdale, when, by reciprocal events, we had occaſion to be explanatory, and I was informed what brought him to Spain, with his

his affection for Miſs Mary. We entered into a ſolemn engagement to reſcue them from the future machinations of that artful woman, or periſh in the attempt. You may judge what followed. We ſucceeded in our enterprize, and when ſhe told me I was to convey her to *Camſang*, and by that declaration found that you was my father, ſhe exclaimed, "O, how happy will Mr. Allen be when he finds I am under the protection of his ſon! Beſides, Sir, give me leave to add (for the Rector was going eagerly to reply) I was ignorant of their high birth till the moment you were made acquainted with it, and the addition of her large fortune, which Auguſtin intimated was in reverſion, will only be eſtimable by me, as it will prevent her ever feeling thoſe evils your apprehenſions have ſo affectingly deſcribed, that the bare ſuppoſition fills my mind with horror."

"Charles, my dear ſon (ſaid the Rector, folding him to his breaſt) forgive a father, whoſe zeal for your fame and integrity has made

made him deviate from fortitude and equanimity, which on any, and every other occaſion, he could ſupport: And did that deſerted orphan ſay, 'I ſhould be happy to find her under the protection of *my ſon*?' and may ſhe ever be ſo ſituated, though the confined pittance of my patrimony would not allow me to educate you and Edward as I wiſhed, yet the generoſity of an uncle has, and I am happy, ſupremely happy, that the little inſtruction you received from me, in the vacations, when your mother and myſelf were invited to meet you at his houſe, has not been miſapplied. Let honor and rectitude ever guide you to protect the injured, ſolace the diſtreſſed, comfort the afflicted, and then you may love the innocent and beautiful, with a ſelf ſatisfaction, which will enhance every bleſſing, and multiply all enjoyments.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLIII.

THE good father having relieved his diſtreſſed mind in the acquiſition, as well as the explanation, Charles informed him of every particular, and of the occaſion which had ſo fortunately brought him to Madrid at a moment ſo critical, together with the unexpected meeting of Mr. Langdale; nor did he conceal any event from his father, but the ſolemn aſſeverations both he and Miſs Emily had mutually made together, that no power on earth ſhould ever ſeparate them, and when ſhe found, from the Marchioneſs, that their fortunes were totally annihilated,

annihilated, her mind had been occupied in domeſtic duties, and the living at the ſequeſtered village, aroſe with all the charms of content and happineſs. Her poultry, her flowers, with the alcove, and the lute, conſtituted in the poſſeſſion every felicity, with a certain companion, in thoſe rural enjoyments, who would partake of the firſt, enjoy the beauty and fragrance of the ſecond, walk with enfolded arms to the third, and liſten with love, rapture, admiration, and delight, to the harmony of her voice, with the enchanting facination of her ſkilful performance on the laſt.

The bedchamber of the lovely orphans, however, exhibited a ſcene widely different from thoſe already deſcribed. They had been attended thither by Mrs. Allen, who perſuaded them to undreſs themſelves, notwithſtanding the morning was far advanced, as the refreſhment would be more ſalutary and reſtorative; but though there were two beds in the room, the meeting had been ſo unexpected,

unexpected, and ſo welcome on both ſides, that they would not be prevailed on to ſeparate, and therefore leaving the other couch for the accommodation of Mrs. Allen, they all three occupied the ſame, and were faſt locked in the arms of reſt, being quite exhauſted with fatigue and watching, with the addition of ſurpriſe, and a number of contrary ſenſations which the different diſcoveries muſt impreſs on each of their minds; but ſleep, that ſweet harbinger of peace, that ſalubrious emollient, had for a time ſuperſeded them all, for exhauſted nature needed a recruit, and anxiety, as well as ſatisfaction, admitted her dominion, when the ſeveral pillows which ſupport their heads adminiſtered to the repoſe, yielding with their ſenſations to that mental annihilation, the ſleep equally as undiſturbed, whether the continued daughters of the obſcure Mr. Capel, or the newly acknowledged offspring of the noble and once diſgraced, but now too late, the amiable and juſt Earl of Marr.

Mrs. Allen, who had been requeſted by Lady Gertrude to ſolace in ſleep her tired, as well as affrighted apprehenſions, could not bring her mind to compoſure ſufficient, as to loſe reflection, ſhe therefore ſat by their ſide, muſing on the events of the preceding night, and while ſhe admired their fluſhing and ſuffuſed countenances, occaſioned by ſleep, her heart gave the preference of beauty to Miſs Emily Capel, and in that poſſeſſion only thought her a ſufficient recompenſe for the valour of Charles Allen; but when ſhe reflected on her reverſionary fortune, and her titled honors, which ſhe inherited from her birth, her exterior accompliſhments were totally forgotten, and her Charles was deſerving of all; for though Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Langdale were fine young Gentlemen, yet in the compariſon they were nothing to him; for did he not poſſeſs all his father's virtues? Was he not brave, juſt, amiable and good? and therefore, contrary to the adaged opinion firſt entertained by the Rector, ſhe thought that his love, and his gaining poſſeſſion of her,

her, was an act of the higheſt merit, and for which herſelf and fortune could only compenſate him for. She then anticipated the pleaſures that muſt ariſe from the union, and the reſtoration of harmony at the cottage and the parſonage; but an idea of the pleaſure (ſo called) attendant on fortune and honor, never croſſed her imagination; hers, with them and the Rector, were all centred in thoſe two places, while the ſlumberers, now retired from all worldly wiſhes or wants, lay the objects of her future evolutions, and her preſent protection, ſave that in the poetic enthuſiaſm of fiction, or with many, the real adopted opinion, might not the ſpirit of their deceaſed father ſtill hover over them, and aſſiſt in the charge: He, whoſe waking and ſleeping hours were all dedicated to their future as well as their preſent good; he, whoſe ſolicitude for them, and apprehenſions for their ſucceeding misfortunes, embittered every hour with regret, and to carry the illuſion farther, might not the mother, as a guardian angel, hang her protecting and hovering wings

wings over them, and with an increaſed happineſs aſſiſt her Lord in the pleaſing office, which fate, for wiſe and good purpoſes unknown to weak-ſighted mortals, prevented her, by an early death, from fulfilling here; 'pleaſing ideas to a contemplative mind!' how ſoothing the ſuppoſition, that thoſe we ſo moan as loſt, are ſtill aſſiſting us with their benevolent offices, and renovating the enervated ſoul with heavenly inſpiration!

CHAP.

CHAP. XLIV.

THE ſun had paſſed the meridian before the nurſery of Mrs. Allen gave any indications towards waking. The firſt who moved was Miſs Capel, when ſtarting, and emphatically pronouncing the words, "O my father!" made Mrs. Allen advance towards the bed, and reply, by aſking another queſtion of, "What is the matter?" On which ſhe opened her eyes, and ſeeing her, obſerved ſhe was there, by ſaying, "Mrs. Allen, is it you? I have been diſturbed in my dream; my mind has been bewildered in imaginary occupations and ſcenes, which

never can be realized, ſtill, ſtill, let me ſay to you, "that I am ſure no ſituation, however aggrandized, could compenſate for the loſs of the cottage, and the contented happineſs which ſurrounded it. My father would have thought ſo, had he been preſent at this important diſcovery. His image and converſation has engroſſed my ſleeping faculties. I have thought, in the deluſion of a dream, he warned me againſt the attractions of pleaſure and diſſipation, alas! I may neceſſarily now be expoſed to; but I have one ſatisfaction, that theſe dear twins (turning and looking on her ſleeping ſiſters) are reſtored to me."

"One ſatisfaction! (interrupted Mrs. Allen) my dear, Miſs Capel, I hope you have an increaſed number: I am ſure, to me the reſtoration, and the diſcovery too, has made me perfectly happy."

"Yes (returned the ward) you have recovered your ſon by the whirlwind; but I do

do not ſee the advantage I ſhall experience by being the daughter of the Earl of Marr, and I am inclined to think he wiſhed it might ever be unknown to us."

This converſation was interrupted, as it rouſed the young Ladies, and finding by their watches it was late, they haſtily put on their cloaths, and repaired to the breakfaſt room, where they were met by Mr. Langdale and Charles Allen, who had been impatiently waiting for them. The tea equipage being placed for the accommodation of the company, Miſs Capel involuntarily placed herſelf at the head of the table, and the lovers taking their ſeats on each ſide of her ſiſters, with Mrs. Allen on her right hand; there were two vacant chairs left for Mr. Allen and Mr. Hamilton, who had not yet made their appearance, while Auguſtin, having followed the waiter with the kettle, and other appendages, he mechanically took his ſtation behind his Lady's chair, where he had been wont to ſtand in the life time of his Lord,

in all the reſpect and ſervility of a ſervant and dependent; ſuch dignity was there in her deportment, as awed every one to obedience; yet her affability, at the ſame time, and ſweet condeſcenſion, made that attention and reſpect to them an act of choice, and not of neceſſity, being ever willing to obey and attend her on all occaſions.

While they were in waiting for thoſe two Gentlemen, the lovers, whoſe preſent and future proſpects had exhilerated their ſpirits, as to amount almoſt to intoxication, or an inebriation of love, entertained their auditors with many ſenſible remarks, and well turned periods of wit and humour, which were chiefly levelled at each other, and alluded, though diſtantly and delicately, to the happineſs of their ſituations, repreſenting in metaphor the felicity they each were ſenſible the other enjoyed from the ſympathy of their own ſenſations, while Miſs Capel's eyes, notwithſtanding, were continually directed to the door, and at the ſame time repeatedly

ſaying,

ſaying, "ſhe wondered where her guardian could be," till Mrs. Allen diverted her ſon, by aſking him, "if he knew where his father was gone?"

At length he appeared at the table, with a countenance expreſſive of ſuch ſatisfaction and pleaſure, as one feels when a friend, whoſe honor and integrity is, by ſome chance, either in nature or connexion, as intimately united with our own, as the failure of one involves the other in the ruin, and we have our diſtruſt removed, with the addition of approbation and applauſe. Such were the expreſſive features of the Rector's mind, whilſt his hands bore teſtimony to the feelings of his heart, when he addreſſed the company with the ſalutations of the morning, and an apology for his delay (for he had been walking to arrange his mental organs, as he was accuſtomed to do, if ever agitated) meeting them together expreſſive of ſelf-ſatisfaction, when looking in the face of Miſs Capel, he ſoon ſaw, that though ſhe received pleaſure

in ſeeing him again, yet that ſhe expected he would have had a companion with him, which made him aſk haſtily, "Where was Mr. Hamilton?" But as the company did not reply, he ſpoke to Auguſtin, "to know if he could give any intelligence of him?" And he declaring, "he had not ſeen either the Gentleman, or his ſervant, ſince they parted in the early part of the morning," he ordered the waiter to inquire for him, as he had told him he left the houſe at the time they ſeverally retired, as has been already obſerved, when, at the requeſt of Miſs Capel, they choſe to leave in ſleep the remembrance of the dangers which in one way they had eſcaped, and thoſe ſhe feared were left her ſtill to encounter, for her mind ſtrongly poſſeſſed her with the opinion, that the diſcovery would totally eſtrange Mr. Hamilton's affection from her, as his aſſured rank might now ſuperſede thoſe of love, together with the tie of conſanguinity, and not yet having had time to give her mind to impartially inveſtigate her father's conduct, ſhe could not

not tell but there might ariſe ſomething in his paſt acts to leſſen her in his eſteem; her own private reflections had told her, that ſhe would willingly reſign all thoſe honors ſhe found ſhe was born to inherit, and living in the cottage, give it the name, and the appearance in idea, of a palace, provided Mr. Hamilton would do ſo too; but that was not to be hoped, or expected, from a Gentleman of his education and birth, who had always been accuſtomed to adulation.—With theſe imaginary obſtacles, to what only could conſtitute her happineſs, ſhe fell into that repoſe, from which ſhe awaked ſo much perturbed, by dreams which pourtrayed in magnitude of evil, ſorrows which had no exiſtence, but in imagination; ſo that when Mr. Hamilton was miſſing, her already alarmed fears made it a concluſion that he had precipitately left them on her account, her recollection not being ſufficiently vigilant to remind her of his promiſe to her ſiſters; that he would even ſupply to them that good parent they had ſo recently loſt. It is true he did not pointedly

include her in the promiſe, but there are young Ladies of ſanguine diſpoſitions, who, had they been ſo ſituated, would have determined in favour of the excluſion, in the ſuppoſition that a tie more congenial and ſatisfactory would have bound her to him indiſſolubly.

Before the ſervant returned with the expected information, the Gentleman, however, appeared; but with features ſo expreſſive of anxiety and deſpair, that Mr. Langdale ſoon ſaw that his precepts had had no farther influence on his friend's paſſions than during the admonition; and that his mind ſtill endured all the diſtreſſing apprehenſions which a ſituation ſo critical muſt produce on one, who yielded ſo implicitly to their ſway. The guardian too, who had for ſome time made the ſeveral riſing perturbations in the breaſt of his ward, as well as in Mr. Hamilton, the ſubject of his private diſquiſitions, by which he had been enabled to trace with preciſion the fluctuation of their different wiſhes, began

began to doubt the teſtimony of his own penetration, when in this meeting he ſaw doubts and diſtruſt painted on the features of both, where he expected, from all the concurring circumſtances which had ſo lately happened, to have ſeen ſatisfaction and delight glow in thoſe intelligent eyes where he had never yet ſeen a diſguiſed thought; and on the other ſide, an enraptured lover rejoicing in events which had fixed a permanency to that happineſs he had ſo often to him expreſſed his hopes and his fears of poſſeſſing.

But theſe cogitations were ſoon removed by Mr. Hamilton himſelf, who, without making any apology for his abſence, or detaining them by his delay, ſaid, "he had juſt time to take his leave, as a ſhip bound for England, indeed a pacquet, which was obliged to ſail, was now unmooring, and he had taken a paſſage in her."

"What, Sir!" ſaid the Rector, "you will not venture again to ſea, while the winds continue ſo boiſterous, and the waves ſo rough and mountainous?"

"The neceſſity of my affairs oblige me to do ſo, Sir," he replied.

"But no neceſſity ought to make you forget your perſonal ſafety," returned the Rector.

"Alas!" ſaid Mr. Hamilton, "my perſonal ſafety is of ſmall concern to any one, to myſelf of none. My father is no more. He thought my happineſs of little eſtimation, and what then is life? But I beg pardon (he continued) for keeping the company ſtanding; Miſs Capel addreſſing her (for they all roſe on his entrance) I wiſh you a ſafe return to the happy ſpot of rural felicity, you, my beauteous angels," taking the hands of Miſs Emily and Mary, and kiſſing them, "may every happineſs attend you both, and to you,

you, Gentlemen (bowing to Mr. Langdale and Charles Allen) when turning to the Rector, "My good friend, farewell; you know more of my heart than any man, and I assure you it has neither deceived you nor me; but circumstances have varied, when making an obeisance, he was on the point of leaving the room, till Miss Mary drew his attention, by saying, "Mr. Ha - - -milton, we are to see you at the cottage, remember;" when he returned to her, and pressing her hand with fervency to his lips, and heaving a deep sigh, said, "if possible," and hastily retired, leaving the company in amazement at his conduct, and the cause, except Miss Capel, who now saw all her conjectures confirmed, and implicitly convinced of their reality, by his addressing them by the name of Capel.

The Rector, however, instantly followed him (for from the opposite appearance he made to what he expected, with his dejected looks, and expressions of despair, made him

conclude, that the tranſaction, with the occurrences of the preceding night, together with the natural impatience of his temper, had made the abundant joy to cauſe a temporary madneſs, for it had never croſſed his mind, to imagine the certainty of his increaſed honors or titles, could in the leaſt leſſen his aſſured and fixed eſteem and love of Miſs Capel, which he had to him ſo ſolemnly avowed nothing could ever alter or eraſe from holding the firſt place in all his concerns;) but he was ſo overwhelmed with anxiety and thought, that he did not notice the attention of the Rector, till he caught hold of his ſleeve, which making him turn round, the face of the good man was ſo expreſſive of ſympathy, that Mr. Hamilton ſaid, "What, Mr. Allen! are you ſtill ſolicitous for me? I ſee that you are: But crowded ills increaſe with ſuch rapidity about me, I know not what I ſay or do."

"Sir (ſaid Mr. Allen) let me beg of you to be more compoſed, to unburden your mind

to

to me; we will retire into this ſmall room," when taking his hand, he led him in without any reſiſtance, and moving a chair, Mr. Hamilton threw himſelf upon it, when laying his face cloſe down on the table, he remained in that ſituation ſo long, while the Rector kept trying to call him to recollection by every endearing expreſſion of friendſhip, that at laſt he thought he really was in a ſwoon, when forcing his head up, he exclaimed, "My good friend, what an unfortunate man I am! Why did the ſtorm ſpare me? Why did not the waves bury me in her tumultuous boſom?"

"Fie, Sir! fie, Mr. Hamilton! (returned the Rector) why ſuch unmanly exclamation? I thought the violence of your natural temper would not have ſuffered you to yield to deſpair, or your good ſenſe to prevent the expreſſion of blaſphemous defiance."

"O, Sir! (ſaid Mr. Hamilton) you know not what provocations I ſuſtain. Did you not

not obſerve in Miſs Capel's countenance (I will not call her Lady Gertrude Dacre; I wiſh ſhe never had been intitled to that appellation) a coolneſs, a diſtruſt, in my opinion, an abſolute abhorrence of the man, whom ſhe may now think obtains her and her ſiſters rights?"

"Pardon me, Sir (ſaid the Rector) for interrupting you; but if you traced ſuch riſing ſenſations in Miſs Capel's breaſt, your face was a tranſcript of hers, and whatever were both your motives, they were equally expreſſive."

"That can never be (returned Mr. Hamilton:) She may think ſhe has cauſe to hate the ſon of the man that aſſiſted to diſgrace and ruin her father; but I muſt ever love her with unabated tenderneſs, and my looks and actions muſt ever expreſs as much."

"Give

"Give me leave, Sir (continued the Rector) to remind you, that Miſs Capel is as yet uninformed of a tranſaction you are now acquainting me with, and therefore her features could not betray what ſhe did not know."

This obſervation led Mr. Hamilton to explain the cauſe of his and his father's unhappy diſagreement, by telling Mr. Allen, "That he had been kept in total ignorance of every circumſtance relative to the late Lord Marr, his uncle, till his return from his travels about two years ago, when a relation of his mother, having had a diſpute with his father about an eſtate, and being very partial to me, had laid open all his father's conduct, and his aſſiſtance towards his ruin. On hearing a ſtory ſo fraught with perfidy and injuſtice (the truth of which I could not entertain a doubt from the relator) led me to remonſtrate with him, and to let him know my opinion, and my author; but whether conſcience reſtrained him on one hand, or

vexation

vexation on the other, by my coming to the knowledge of ſuch a tranſaction, he made it a pretext to be much offended with me, and though I ſolicited him by letters to endeavour to inveſtigate the truth, and to trace out, if poſſible, a line by which we might gain a knowledge whether Lord Marr or his family were living, and I urged it for my future honor, a ſon to whom he had ever ſhewn the kindeſt partiality, he either treated them with contemptuous neglect, or anſwered them with unkind (I will not call them by a harſher title) language. — Theſe reiterated provocations became at length ſo open, that, to ſcreen them from the obſervation of the world, I adopted the expedient of travelling as ſoon as I was of age, to take poſſeſſion of an eſtate left me by an uncle, and which I put in execution, a circumſtance that has ultimately brought that to light, which was the ſole ſubject of our diſputations, brought me acquainted with Miſs Capel, and, in that ſingle inſtance, to invoke the future happineſs or miſery of my ſucceeding days: But why

why do I admit an alternative? It amounts to a certainty of miſery. She deſpiſes me. An involuntary impulſe, ſince ſhe has been made acquainted with our near connexion, has taught her to hate the offſpring of him that brought on her father's ruin: Then do not you, my good friend, ſay I ought not to wiſh the waves had ſwallowed me up. Is not death more eligible than life on ſuch terms?"

"Sir (ſaid the Rector) you are not to tax Providence, or wiſh to have your life curtailed, for events which have followed natural cauſes. Did you not acknowledge, that the finding this family was a wiſh of your firſt thoughts, and they are found; why then deſpair, or diſtruſt, what I think will ultimately end in fulfilling all you wiſh?"

Mr. Hamilton then kept ſilent a minute, when again addreſſing the Rector, "Sir (ſaid he) I ſhould almoſt be inclined to think, that not only the elements, but even the ſtimulous

ſtimulous of friendſhip had joined to cruſh my riſing hopes; for ſince I parted from you, and your fair charges this morning, I have met one of my beſt friends and companions, who, like us, was driven into this harbour, from England, in order to meet me, for the pleaſure of anticipating my joy, in telling me, "that my father's *Will* had expreſsly commanded *me* to fulfil his engagement, which he had made with Sir James Collone for my marriage with his daughter, the condition of which was, that if I refuſed, the whole of the family eſtate was to devolve to a couſin diſtant in blood, and the title (which he could not diſpoſe of) to me:" When my friend added, "I thought the intelligence would give you ſatisfaction, as Haley, your father's ſteward and mine, told it to me in confidence, having made his will a few days previous to his death. O, Henry, how will the world envy you the poſſeſſion of that lovely woman, the moſt beautiful in the circle of the Court, with the declared approbation of her father, and a partiality in her own

own breaſt for you, which ſhe cannot, you know, conceal!"

"I ſhould ſuppoſe, then, Sir (ſaid the Rector) that a prior engagement was a greater obſtacle to the completion of your wiſhes, reſpecting my lovely ward, than any other interpoſition."

When Mr. Hamilton looking earneſtly in his face, reſumed, "Do not let me conſtrue a look from you, Mr. Allen, to impeach either my friendſhip or veracity, for I ſolemnly ſwear, by your ſacred ſelf, not a word has ever paſſed my lips to you, that I can wiſh ſhould ſuffer a revocation, I never had a prior attachment, nor can any other ſucceed. Sir James Collone's eſtate and my father's join. Amelia Collone was, from the intimacy of our fathers, my juvenile companion, as I was hers. I remember to hear them call us the infant lovers, the united friends; but from the time I went to College, and from thence on my tour, ſhe was never mentioned

mentioned to me. She viſited at our houſe, it is true, with her parents, and I was frequently preſent; nor can I deny her perſonal charms to be very great, yet not ſufficient to attract me; nor would thoſe trivial circumſtances have occurred to my mind, were not the laſt words my father ſaid, when we angrily parted on both ſides, now ſo forcibly impreſt: Son, remember that I fully expect you fulfil my engagement with my worthy friend, Sir James Collone, in marrying his beauteous daughter Amelia."

This mandate ſtruck me forcibly; but I was too angry at the time to make any other reply than ſaying, "I hope, Sir, you will allow me a negative in ſo important a buſineſs, which concerns the future happineſs of my life." On ſaying which I left him, and have not ſeen him ſince. He is now no more, and I ſuppoſe the diſtance I was from him made him make the will to enforce the injunction; but, be aſſured, Mr. Allen, I never will marry Miſs Collone, if I am reduced

duced to indigence, which I muſt be with an unſupported title. Sir James is a man neither to be truſted or endured, diſſipated and diſſolute, and poſſeſſes vigour: But why do I make a doubt; can any fortune or woman eſtrange my affections from Miſs Capel, though her frowns ſhould drive me from her preſence for ever. No, never, Mr. Allen; ſhe is the miſtreſs of my fate, in whatever ſhape conveyed, and when I am gone, do you be my friend, and tell her ſo. In reſpect to the accumulated fortunes, they were claimed by my father, in truſt as their natural guardian, if ever found, your ſon therefore, with Miſs Emily Capel, will have an independent fortune, if it is not diſſipated; but then the eſtates are liable to the imburſements.—His Majeſty made frequent inquiries of my father, if the proper ſearch had been made after the fugitives, as he called them, and always received for anſwer an affirmative, with a lamentation on the ill ſucceſs: But to you, Mr. Allen, I may in confidence ſay, I am ſure he never ſuffered the inquiry to be made

made directly or indirectly, enjoying, with accumulated ſplendor, the property thus obtained."

At this moment Mr. Hamilton's ſervant entering the room, informing his maſter that the veſſel was on the point of ſailing, and only waited for him, he turned to Mr. Allen, and taking his hand, "My good friend (ſaid he) I wiſh you every felicity which you merit."

"Sir (returned Mr. Allen, much diſtreſſed) if I have not influence ſufficient to prevent your hazarding ſuch a dangerous paſſage, let me beg you will, for the ſake of Miſs Capel, poſtpone your voyage till the weather is more favourable."

For Miſs Capel's ſake, what would I not forego (ſaid he) for her peace and happineſs!"

"Ah! do not hold out ſuch an alluring advantage; I muſt go. How do I know

what Sir James Collone may do under ſuch an opportunity as my abſence, and my father's commands, if I ſhould meet the fate you ſay I am prematurely ſeeking, when you tell that young Lady what I have already enjoined in that ſituation, my laſt thoughts and wiſhes ſhall be on her."

"Would you have me (returned Mr. Allen) mention the ſubject of Miſs Collone?"

"By all means (he returned:) I wiſh nothing to be concealed; if we are loſt, Auguſtin can develope the reſt. My friend is returning with me to England, and now on board the ſhip. So no more, my good friend, farewell. Remember me with friendſhip and eſteem."

"But, Sir (ſaid Mr. Allen, ſtill holding his hand) we ſhall ſee you at the cottage?"

"Or hear from me, if I arrive in ſafety, he returned; when forcing his hand away, he

he haſtily left the Rector, who ſtood with his arm extended, petrified with fear for his ſafety, and perplexed with a multitude of ſenſations and great concern for his ward, who, he well knew, would feel with keen ſenſibility, not only the dangers, but the miſfortunes of Mr. Hamilton."

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.